



Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Finance committee meeting of Oct. 26, 2012

Meeting called to order at 4:30 P M at Town Hall, Judge Welsh Meeting Room.

Present were: Tom Donegan, chair, Mike Canizales, Catherine Russo, Duane Steele, Doug Cliggott, Clarence Walker, Gordon Siegel, & Tim Grobleski

Also present was Austin Knight, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and another member of the selectmen, who was unnamed on the tape.

A letter from a member of the public, Cecilia Hall, was read into the record.

Article 6 is:

The Selectmen have voted to transfer \$250,000 from free cash, to the general stabilization fund. Balance prior to this is \$366,220.

That leaves a balance of \$116,220.00, in free cash. The amount in the stabilization fund is approximately 1.2 million dollars.

A motion was made to table article 6 in order to discuss article 7 first. Tim Grobleski moved, Clarence Walker 2nd, vote was 7-1 (MC)

Then there was a move to reconsider article 7. Catherine Russo moved, Clarence Walker 2nd. There were 3 in favor, as members who were not present could not vote. Tim Grobleski, Doug Cliggott. opposed, and Catherine Russo, Clarence Walker, and Tom Donegan in favor.

Mike Canizales discusses that we do want to maintain the school building, but it is his contention that without a capital improvement plan, we have no idea what other demands will be foisted upon us in the future. He suggests a debt exclusion, which will require a 2/3 vote of a small house, at Fall Town Meeting.

Tim Grobleski says that we have more money due to an error by the state, of \$500.00 last year. So our free cash is bolstered by that amount. Mr. Walker says that we have not considered other demands on the town

Ms. Russo says that we need to consider the process, and is now more aware of the future demands on the taxpayers, and expresses much concern about raising taxes more.

Mr. Cliggott feels that time is of the essence, and we must take care of this building before it deteriorates more.

Mr. Canizales says we are putting school in priority, without knowing the rest of the story.

Mr. Knight says we will still have a minimum in 250,000 in free cash due to grants, Mr. Grobleski states that we are not putting town in any danger by using free cash. We are doing nothing that is financially irresponsible, and our bond rating will not be affected.

Mr. Donegan says we must have a capital improvement plan implemented, that gives us ways to pay for emergencies, such as the school, but also allows for funding of other necessary projects. We are not looking at overall strategy. This may be the most expedient way to handle school, but we need to be less intuitive, and more analytical in our spending.

Mr. Steele says building is too valuable to allow having problems that now exist and will worsen. He also cites a need for a capital improvements plan.

Public statements are heard from:

Jamie Krusevich

Anthony Brackett,

Peter Grosso,

Kerry Adams,

Dr Singer, Supt. of Schools

Mr. Canizales moves that the FC recommends that the town raise and appropriate 1.237.437 million via a 2.5 override rather than use free cash. It is 2nd by Ms. Russo vote is 1 in favor, 2 abstentions, and 5 opposed

So then Mr. Canizales moves that we accept article 7. Mr. Walker 2nds. Motion passes, 7-1-0(MC)

Dan Hoort says should a grant come in we will have to have a Town meeting vote to change the figure. Taken from Free cash

Article 6

Gordon Siegel moves to transfer \$250,000 to the general stabilization fund, from free cash Vote passes. 8-0-0

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Mr. Donegan says Fin Coms letter to the voters was written publicly. and they were under the impression that we were under a pay as you go plan. After more education we are usually operating in two ways.

The three ways that we finance

1. Project specific term limited bond

2 Capital exclusion: a one-time assessment, (surcharge), raised for one tax year

3 Override, non-project specific. adds to tax prate indefinitely.

We have only used the override once, for the rec. dept. We have mostly used #1 and #2.

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Mr. Donegan suggests amending the letter to other voters. Mr. Walker offers to re write and proof it.
Mr. Canizales moves Tom Donegan 2nds to adjourn.
Meeting ends at 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted
Maghi Geary.
