

February 2, 2023

Minutes

Finance Committee Members in attendance: Ben Thomas, Chair, Karen Dunn, Clerk, Elizabeth McClung, Stephen Steele, Paul Mortenson, Erica Liu, Abigail Seibert, Ron O’Brien and Tom Rowan

Others in attendance: David Castellarin, (Finance Director); Emily Mitchell (Select Board)

Chair Thomas calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Reads Remote Meeting Guidelines

Calls the Roll of Committee Members in attendance.

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Public Comment

None

2. 2024 ATM Draft Warrant Discussion/Vote

Chair Thomas reviews the general process and procedure with respect to the Finance Committee’s voting to support or not support the various Draft Town Meeting Articles

Article 1 Reports of Town Officers and Committees

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Steele.

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 2 Debate Rules

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Steele.

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 3 Consent Article

Members discuss this article and ask for further information. Agree not to vote on this article for now.

Article 4 Bills of Prior Year

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Steele.

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 5 General By-Law Amendment – Revolving Funds

Members discuss this Article. Members discuss use of Revolving Funds and ask about actual expenses and income. Not currently publicized. Would like a list of expenditures from prior years.

Mr. Castellarin states that this information is listed elsewhere.

Chair Thomas discusses how this could be done.

Further Member discussion about using available reports.

Members agree to defer of this Article pending receipt of further information.

Article 6 Revolving Funds - Expenditure Limits

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Steele.

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 7 Community Preservation Budget – Fiscal Year 2023

Members agree to defer since that Committee is scheduled to appear next week.

Article 8 Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Projects Plan

Members discuss this Article.

Questions raised as to separating bonded articles.

Mr. Castellarin notes not necessary. Just need details.

Ms. Mitchell notes that the Warrant is closed. These matters could be added to the discussion.

Members discuss various items including Storm Water, Traffic Calming, the turf field, Carlisle Road Salt Shed, School Security, Sidewalk ADA issues.

Member Mortenson suggests moving now on all.

Member Dunn moves that this Committee provide the Committee's recommendation at Town Meeting.

Second by Member Steele.

Roll call of Members in Attendance.

Vote: 8-1-0

Motion carries

Article 9 PEG Access and Cable Expense Related Budget – Fiscal Year 2024

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Dunn

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 10 Supplement Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and Articles of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting

Member Steele notes that Mr. Castellarin will come up with all the needed numbers here closer to the Annual Town Meeting.

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to provide recommendation at Annual Town Meeting by Member Steele.

Second by Member McClung

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 11 Salary Administration Plan Bylaw Amendment – Classification and Wage Schedule

Members discuss this Article.

Member Steele states that he would like to see calculations for the recommended changes.

Member Mortenson suggests voting now.

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Mortenson

Second by Member Dunn

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 2-7-0

Motion fails

Article 12 Operating Budgets – Fiscal Year 2024

Members discuss this.

Agree to continue this to another date.

Article 13 Ambulance Enterprise Budget – Fiscal Year 2024

Member Rowan asks for an explanation of this item

Mr. Castellarin provides the same.

Members discuss this line item

Motion to recommend approval by Member Dunn.

Second by Member Steele

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 14 Salary Plan Additional Funding

Members discuss this Article.

Member Steele asks how these numbers were arrived at. Can COLA and Merit Fees be broken out? Just would like more clarification.

Member McClung also notes this is a clarification issue.

Member O'Brien agrees.

Members agree to delay action on this Article.

Article 15 Supplement Accrued Leave Fund

Members discuss this Article.

Members decide to delay action at this time.

Article 16 Stabilization Fund

Members discuss this Article.

Member Dunn discusses Free Cash use.

Member McClung discusses the numbers and range. Need to be very careful with this.

Member Steele suggests need for a rough list regarding how much Free Cash should be used.

Chair Thomas suggests waiting on any action on this Article. Need to hear from the Schools. Would prefer not acting on this tonight.

Member McClung asks what is causing the large amount of Free Cash.

Chair Thomas states that the Town does not keep numbers to determine this. When we get through budget process, need to study overall Free Cash issues.

Mr. Castellarin notes that Local Receipts came in \$4 million higher.

Member Dunn notes this should be based on Operating Budget.

Member Steele asks why the Local Receipts were so much higher.

Mr. Castellarin notes substantial building permit fees.

Article 17 Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Dunn.

Second by Member Mortenson

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 3-6-0

Motion fails

Members agree to delay action on this Article

Article 18 Appropriate Funds for Transportation Infrastructure Fund

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member McClung.

Second by Member Steele

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 19 300th Anniversary Stabilization Fund Appropriation

Members discuss this Article.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Seibert.

Second by Member Dunn

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 20 300th Anniversary Stabilization Fund Appropriation

Members discuss this Article. Authorizing funds for marketing.

Motion to recommend approval by Member Mortenson

Second by Member Seibert

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 8-1-0

Motion carries

Article 21 Free Cash

Members discuss this Article/

Motion to recommend providing recommendation at Annual Town Meeting by Member Mortenson

Second by Member Seibert

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries

Article 22 Zoning

Members discuss this Article

Members decide to postpone a decision on this Article pending presentation by Planning Board.

RECURRING BUSINESS

Chair Thomas discusses answers to questions that were asked by Members previously.

Chair Thomas states that setting Agenda items might be more appropriate manner.

Chair Thomas notes that if information is being sought is by the Committee, that is appropriate. If information is being sought just by one member, could be questioned.

Again, we could set Agenda items for more information.

Chair Thomas notes that Fund balances need to be discussed.

Chair Thomas notes that there could be concern about comments being made by individual Members.

Mr. Castellarin states that he would prefer to have a meeting dealing with Free Cash and the tax rate.

1. Meetings Attended

Chair Thomas and Member McClung attended the Select Board meeting mostly dealing with the Carlisle Road project.

2. Finance Committee Adjourns

Motion to adjourn by Member Steele.

Second by Member Rowan.

Roll call of Members in attendance.

Vote: 9-0-0

Motion carries.

Time: 9:06 PM

John B. Connarton
Recording Secretary

DOCUMENT LIST

Agenda for February 2, 2023 Meeting

Table of Contents for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Historic Free Cash listing

Historic Stabilization Fund

Historic Tax Levy by type of tax

