

Town of Bedford Finance Committee

Remote Meeting - Zoom

March 10, 2022

Minutes

Finance Committee Members in attendance: Stephen Carluccio (Chair), Elizabeth McClung, Paul Mortenson, David Powell, Stephen Steele, Karen Dunn, Ben Thomas, Erica Liu

Others in attendance: David Castellarin, (Finance Director), Bill Moonan, Select Board

Chair Carluccio called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Reads Remote Meeting Guidelines.

Calls the Roll of Committee Members in attendance.

Noted for the record that the meeting is being recorded by Bedford TV

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Public Comment

None

2. Review/Discussion/Take Positions on ATM Warrant Items

Chair Carluccio states that we will discuss the Articles that we have not yet taken a position on.

Article 2, Debate Rules

Motion by Member Mortenson to recommend approval of Article 2 as printed in the Warrant at Town Meeting.

Second by Member Steele

Roll call of Members in attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 6, Community Preservation Budget

Chair Carluccio refers to Item 13. \$600,000 to Municipal Affordable Housing Trust.

Motion by Member Mortenson to recommend approval of Article 6, Item 13, \$600,000 to Municipal Affordable Housing Trust.

Second by Member Thomas

Discussion: Member McClung asks about details of proposed use of these funds.

Member Powell discusses understanding of the potential use of this appropriation. Not for a specific project at this time.

Member Thomas discusses lack of information about this fund request and current balance.

Members McClung and Dunn state they will be voting no due to lack of information.

Member Powell rescinds this motion.

Chair Carluccio states that this will be discussed next week.

Article 12 – Land Acquisition – 33 Shawsheen Road

Chair Carluccio discusses this in general.

Mr. Castellarin states that he believes that the Select Board will provide a recommendation at Town Meeting and may rescind this at Town Meeting.

Mr. Moonan discusses this potential acquisition with respect to land to be added to cemetery.

Mr. Castellarin suggests holding off on this subject to potential referral to Town Counsel.

Chair Carluccio agrees.

Article 14 – Supplemental Operating Budget for FY 2021 and Articles of 2020 Annual Town Meeting

Chair Carluccio discusses purpose of this.

Mr. Castellarin discusses recent retirements draining fund and receipt of notices of further retirements require Reserve Fund transfers. Will be calculating all of this shortly.

Chair Carluccio notes that we currently have \$2.3 million in our Reserve for 2022.

Mr. Castellarin states that we have to calculate what we might use for the year. Will work on this and discuss next week.

Article 15 – Salary Bylaw Amendment – Classification and Wage Schedule

Chair Carluccio states that the Select Board has taken a position now on this Article.

Motion by Member Powell that Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 15 as printed in the Warrant.

Second by Member McClung.

Member Steele states that he cannot support this if we are paying people out of the range right now.

Member McClung discusses issues with language of this.

Roll call of Members in attendance

Vote: 5-3-0

Motion carries

Article 20 – Appropriate Funds for Bargaining Agreement – FY2022-2024

Chair Carluccio notes that the Select Board has not acted on this yet.

Mr. Castellarin discusses the Town Manager’s negotiations with union with respect to this item. Hoping to wrap up in next week or two so as to get a number here.

No action to be taken here tonight.

Article 22- Stabilization Fund Appropriation

Chair Carluccio states that the Select Board has voted. Believes we should agree and vote the \$500,000 to increase the balance.

Motion by Member Powell that Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 22 as printed in the Warrant.

Second by Member Steele

Discussion by Member Powell that this is consistent with the last version of our Model.

Mr. Castellarin agrees.

Roll call of Members in attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 23 – Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Appropriation

Chair Carluccio notes that we had made a comment with respect to the earlier version of this and the Select Board accepted our comment and that is what is in the Warrant now and in the Model.

Motion by Member Powell that the Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 23 as printed in the Warrant to add contribution to this Fund in the amount of \$969,150

Second by Member Thomas

Roll call of Members in Attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 24 – Appropriate Funds for Transportation Infrastructure Fund

Motion by Member Powell that the Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 24 as printed in the Warrant

Second by Member Steele

Roll call of Members in attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 25 – 300th Anniversary Stabilization Fund Appropriation

Motion by Member Powell that Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 25 as printed in the Warrant

Second by Member Thomas

General discussion of event.

Roll call of Members in attendance

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries

Article 26 – Free Cash

Chair Carluccio states that this floats to Town Meeting.

Member Powell asks to confirm the number we are looking at as \$6.1 million.

Mr. Castellarin confirms that \$6.1 million is the number in the Model and that should be the number.

Member Powell asks how many articles still need to be voted.

Member Carluccio states that he believes there are 4 or 5 including Free Cash that need to be finalized.

3. Review/Discussion Draft Position Rationale Write-Ups

Chair Carluccio begins discussion of draft Article write-ups.

Chair Carluccio suggests that Article 2 write-up seems fine. No comments from Members.

Chair Carluccio suggests Article 3 is the same. No comments from Members.

Chair Carluccio suggests Articles 4, 5 and 6 are the same. No comments.

Chair Carluccio suggests Member Mortenson's draft for Article.6 is good. No Member comments.

No draft for Article 7 yet.

Article 8 - no Member comments.

Article 9 – Member Thomas states the draft seems too long. Member Powell suggests striking the second paragraph. Member Thomas agrees. Chair Carluccio notes that will be done.

Chair Carluccio notes that we have no drafts yet for 10 and 11.

Article 13 – no Member comments

Article 14 – still evolving

Article 15 – no write-up yet.

Article 16 – no write-up yet

Article 17 – Member Thomas believes it is too long – language already in Committee report. Members re-work the language.

Article 18 – No Member comments

Article 19 – Still out according to Member McClung

Article 20 – Not ready yet.

Article 21 – Just changes number from last year. OK with correction

Article 22 – Voted tonight. OK with correction.

Article 23 – Not assigned yet. OK to use previous language and update the number.

Article 24 – Same language from past years. No comments.

Article 25 – Approved with suggested word change by Member Thomas.

Article 26 – Same write up as previous years with updated numbers which are not final yet.

Chair Carluccio requests that outstanding write-ups be sent to him by next Tuesday.

4. Minutes

None

II. RECURRING BUSINESS

1. Meetings attended

Member Thomas discusses Select Board meeting. Nothing financial related.

Member Powell discusses Planning Board meeting and discussion of residential zoning and non-conforming lots issues.

2. Open Discussion

Mr. Moonan states that this is his last meeting as a Selectman and thanks everyone. Members also make such comments.

Discussion of presentation practices to be followed at Town Meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Member Mortenson

Second by Member Steele

Roll call of members in attendance

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion carries

Time: 8:10 PM

John B. Connarton
Recording Secretary

DOCUMENT LIST

Agenda for March 10, 2022 Meeting

FY2023 – Select Board Budgets and All Budgets – Finance Department

FY23 – Budget Guideline Allocation 2-10-22

2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Model FY23 – February 23, 2022

Draft Finance Committee Report

