

Town of Bedford Finance Committee

Remote Meeting - Zoom

June 22, 2020

Minutes

Finance Committee Members in attendance: Ben Thomas (Chair), Elizabeth McClung (Vice Chair), Paul Mortenson, David Powell, Stephen Steele, Tom Busa, Karen Dunn and Stephen Carluccio

Others in attendance: Victor Garofalo, (Finance Director, Treasurer)

Sarah Stanton – Town Manager, Cathy Cordes – Town Moderator

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Reads Remote Meeting Guidelines. Calls the Roll of Committee Members in attendance. Member Liu not in attendance.

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Public Comments

James O'Neill in attendance by Zoom. Has no oral comments.

None other than those received by e-mail.

2. Annual Town Meeting

Chair wants to go through the presentations. Start with what is known as the Dashboard. One small change made on the free cash page to make sure it is known that free cash cannot be used to balance the operating budget.

Budget slides are pretty much what we have seen before.

Member McClung suggests adding the dollar increases as well as the current percentage numbers.

Member Powell asks about the 0% Cola.

Ms. Stanton states that the teachers were still negotiating but not yet concluded when Covid closure occurred. The teachers' agreeing to 0% Cola was voluntary.

Member Dunn states that she believes the current slides are very good.

Member McClung asks about breaking out the bonded projects.

Mr. Garofalo states he can break out water & sewer from others. He will do that.

Member Mortenson believes that may be adding too much information.

Chair Thomas believes this is a low impact change that requires only one additional line.

Members agree to proposed change.

Chair Thomas states that the only recommendations of the Finance Committee will be those Articles that will come up at the Meeting. Otherwise no recommendations for Articles that will be postponed.

Cathy Cordes explains that there will be a whole list of articles that will be postponed. She believes that the Finance Committee should provide a recommendation agreeing with the indefinite postponement.

Ms. Stanton states that the Articles that will go forward are 2,3,6,7,23,27,28,31, 32 and 38. All others from the original Annual Town Meeting warrant will be those covered by the motion to indefinitely postpone.

Member Powell asks if there is a possibility that the postponement Article may be opposed.

Cathy Cordes reads the titles of the Articles that will be indefinitely postponed.

Chair Thomas suggests that we use what we have in the past by stating that no recommendations will be given since it is expected that these Articles will be indefinitely postponed.

All members agree.

3. Special Town Meeting Warrant Article “ Tax Increment Financing Agreement”.

Ms. Stanton summarizes the TIF Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Chair Thomas suggests going around to all Members for comments.

Member Mortenson states that he has drafted a write-up assuming approval.

Ms. Stanton also provides tax impact of project. Also provides the financial capability of Ultragenics.

Member Steele asks why Ultragenics decided on Bedford.

Ms. Stanton states that they were impressed with the effort Ms. Stanton and staff had made as well the experience of Ms. Stanton and staff and the location itself.

Member Powell asks about the 9 year period.

Ms. Stanton explains the tax effect over the 9 years.

Member McClung states that she is very excited and believes that Ms. Stanton and Staff did a great job.

Member Dunn comments on this being a pre-profitability company but feels that the company has good access to capital markets. Town has also included claw-back provisions.

Member Carluccio agrees this is great.

Chair Thomas asks when the state did their initial review of finances of the company.

Ms. Stanton states that initial approval was in January and nothing has changed with respect to this project or the State’s support for it.

Chair Thomas believes this is all upside for the Town. Believes that Ms. Stanton and her Economic Development Director have done a great job.

Member Powell asks about impact of traffic, etc.

Ms. Stanton states that the site is already planned for more than the impact that will come from this project. This has always been the goal of the Town for this site.

Motion to recommend approval of Special Town Meeting TIF Warrant Article by Member Mortenson.

Second by Member Steele.

Chair Thomas takes a Roll Call of Members with respect to Member votes.

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion carries.

Chair Thomas suggests review of the draft write up done by Member Mortenson.

Discussion of reference to FinCom 's not generally wanting to give a discount but is willing to do it here.

Member discussion results in agreement to remove that reference.

Member discussion also results in agreement to remove last sentence.

Write up should be ended "with the TIF in place". All Members agree.

No separate vote on this needed.

4. Model 3.0

No one has any general comments on this.

Member Dunn asks about the addition of about \$1.5 million added to bonding since last week's version. Located on page 10.

Mr. Garofalo notes that the three bonded projects were removed so no additions.

II New/Special Business

1. Minutes

None

2. Meetings Attended

Chair Thomas reviews Selectmen's Meeting.

3. New Business

Member Powell asks about what experience has been by other towns with outside Annual Meetings.

Ms. Stanton discusses the information Ms. Cordes and the Town has received from other towns. In general the numbers have been very high. Originally we planned on 200 chairs but now we will plan for 300.

4. Open Discussion

None.

Motion to adjourn by Member Mortenson.

Second by Member Powell.

Chair Thomas takes Roll Call of Members votes.

Vote: 7-1-0

Motion carries.

John B. Connarton

Recording Secretary

DOCUMENTS LIST

Agenda for June 22, 2020 Meeting.

Draft of write up for Finance Committee recommendation for Special Town Meeting TIF
Warrant

Model Guideline 3.0 Adjusted FY2021

FY2021 Current Model 3.0 Adjustment

Jim O'Neil email correspondence