

FINAL Minutes of the Acton Finance Committee Meeting April 2, 2012 6:00 pm – Acton Boxborough  
Regional High School, Room 115 N

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 6:00 p.m. on April 2, 2012, to review various matters related to the Annual Town Meeting.

Members Present: Mary Ann Ashton, Patricia Clifford, Bob Evans, Paulina Knibbe  
Bill Mullin, Steve Noone, Clint Seward, and Doug Tindal.

Members Absent: Maynard Brandon

**BUDGET TRANSFER (Article 10)**

It was believed the Budget Transfer motion would include \$100,000 to support the Nursing Service for FY12 and \$40,000 to support transportation programs for FY12 as reported by Mr. Murray at the Finance Committee meeting on March 27. Mr. Mullin commented it was difficult to propose a motion to recommend without any explanation from staff or the Board of Selectmen supporting the request. He expressed disappointment with the lack of information and suggested that the changes should be made within the bottom line budget.

Based on conversations with staff, Mrs. Ashton said the transportation funds were intended to replace money from a grant that was not renewed. Designated funds for the transfer into the Enterprise Fund would come from the Legal and Snow and Ice accounts. Town Counsel had recommended a formal Town Meeting vote because the funds would move from the Operating Budget, which did not contain a line item for Transportation, into the Enterprise Fund.

Ms. Knibbe acknowledged that there was a problem with the data for ANS and agreed that there was some downsizing necessary for the program, but could not see what opposing the Budget Transfer article would accomplish except to make the FinCom look silly.

Mr. Noone renewed his observation that we are asking public sector employees to manage a private sector business and that the hard decisions could be made sooner rather than later.

Mr. Seward commented that the problem is clearly a management dearth. He said he would support the transfer for this year, but not in future years.

Concluding that it was incongruent and illogical not to support programs that we have previously voted for in FY12, Mr. Mullin moved the Finance Committee recommend the Budget Transfer for the Acton Nursing Service in the amount of \$100,000. Mr. Seward seconded the motion.

Mr. Evans said he would vote to support the motion, but made the point that we were voting blind because we had no information.

After discussion, the Chair called the vote which was 7 ayes and 1 no (Noone).

Mr. Noone then moved the Finance Committee recommend the Budget Transfer for the Transportation Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$40,000. Mrs. Ashton seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Articles 16 and 17)**

Mr. Noone reported that staff had provided new total numbers for the motions on these two articles to reflect additional calculations. Article 16 changed to \$145,443 (FY12 to be funded from Free Cash) and Article 17 changed to \$50,520 with the funding divided between Free Cash and the FY12 Operating Budget. Mr. Noone moved approval of the amended amounts. Mrs. Ashton seconded the motion which was adopted without objection.

## **ACTON NURSING SERVICE FY13 SUBSIDY (Article 11)**

Mrs. Clifford reported that the Board of Selectmen had offered a compromise funding amount for Article 11 , the Nursing Enterprise Fund, which would increase the amount of revenues by \$25,000 and decrease the amount of the transfer from the operating budget to \$175,000 from \$200,000. The Finance Committee had voted on March 27 to cap the operating fund transfer at \$150,000 and submitted an amendment to the Moderator to put the question before the Meeting.

Chairman Tindal recommended taking the compromise. Mrs. Ashton agreed saying we have pushed our perspective, gotten a result, and should not continue to disagree over \$25,000. Mr. Evans said that while it galls him that the Board of Selectmen and management continue to ignore the views of the Finance Committee, he did not believe the Townspeople would be well served by an argument over \$25,000.

Mr. Tindal moved the Committee recommend the compromise amount of \$175,000 for the FY13 subsidy to the Nursing Enterprise Fund. Mr. Evans seconded the motion which was adopted 7 ayes and 1 nay (Noone.)

The Chair then welcomed Steve Barrett, Finance Director, who briefly discussed the Budget Transfer article. He did not have additional information on the specifics of the Budget Transfer amounts.

The Committee continued in session at the Acton Annual Town Meeting and adjourned at approximately 10:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Clifford, Clerk