



Town of Acton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7th, 2017

Acton Town Hall – Room 204 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, Mike Majors, Jason Cole, Margaret Busse (Chair), David Wellinghoff (Clerk), John Benson (Associate), Steve Noone, Roland Bourdon, Shuyu Lee, Doug Tindal (Vice-chair)

Other: Janet Adachi (BoS), Brian McMullen, Town Manager Ledoux, Steve Barrett (Finance Dept), Peter Berry (BoS)

Chair Busse called meeting to order at 7:34.

Public participation – None.

Minutes Approval – Motion to approve amended minutes, all affirmative.

Town of Acton Municipal Budget – Steve Ledoux presents on the FY18 town budget request of \$33,709,649, a 3.2% increase over FY17. Upcoming accounting changes to OPEB will actually hit the town’s balance sheet (instead of footnotes). Town recommends 8% ceiling of expenditures on reserves and a 3% floor with difference above to go to Stabilization Fund. Chair notes disagreement with the reserves policy and that it does not appear necessary and was not satisfied with explanation given. Reserves should be there to cover emergencies and excess is extra taxation. Motion to recommend \$33,151,899 operating budget, seconded, all affirmative. Steve and Steve both answer questions regarding warrant articles. Motion to approve Article 8 (Fire Apparatus), all affirmative. Motion to approve Article 9 (Capital Infrastructure), 7 affirmative, 2 abstentions. Motion to approve Article 10 (516 Mass Ave for Gardner playground parking), all affirmative. Motion to approve Article 11 (Injury Leave), all affirmative. Motion to approve Article 12 (Commuter Lot), all affirmative. Comment that Commuter Lot Fund should be separately disclosed and regularly reviewed like other budgets. Brian presents FY17 Q2 report (data

available on town website) reviewing the status of the towns operating budget and various funds. Snow and Ice is currently running a \$70,000 deficit.

Planning articles – Ray and Roland from the Planning Board review Article 20 to amend the zoning bylaw which he states was mostly administrative regarding the Nagog Park area (Insulet). Ray and Roland note that Article 21 is housekeeping article where a housing property is zoned Office Park and should be Residential. Article 22 (317 Central) is to add a used car lot to the property and would require a permit from the BoS and (in theory) would be subject to constraints such as 5 cars up front, 5 in back, signage limitations, etc. Ray notes all of the abutters who attended were supportive of this article and they had 2 meetings to review this topic. Article 23 looks to clean up some terminology from a prior Article from the ATM in 2016. Motion to recommend Articles 20-24, all affirmative.

Update on subcommittees – Outreach meetings are coming up soon. Long range plan is waiting on finalized ALG numbers.

Review committee updates – BoS discussing the potential of 200+ units of affordable housing (mix toward Acton) on Powdermill road on the border of Maynard. BoS discussing reserves policy.

Chair's minute – Meeting March 13th (Monday) to finalize Warrant articles. Kristen resigns for personal reasons.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Wellinghoff
Finance Committee Clerk

Documents referenced:
Q2 FY2017 review presentation
Town budget presentation