

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Middle/High School~11 Winter Street
11/14/16
5:30PM-General Meeting/STM

Selectmen Present: C. David Surface Chairman; Gary C. Fowler, Clerk; Douglas W. Dawes, Steven Sadler; Joseph Bonavita

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Donald Cudmore, Police Chief; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

5:35PM Call to order

Special Town Meeting Discussion and votes

Mr. Farrell handed out financial information on Debt Schedule, Free Cash, Stab Fund balance, and estimates of Snow & Ice and Free Cash.

Discussion on debt falling off and debt coming on, Free Cash \$473,860, and estimate of a new Fire Truck \$77K.

Mr. Farrell stated that if the board funds Art. 4 (Purchase of Real Estate-45 Central St) and Art. 5 (Removal of Underground Fuel Tank at M/H School) there will be \$213K left in Free Cash for snow and ice.

Mr. Surface stated that the board needs to decide how they would like to fund these purchases, either from Free Cash or the Stab Fund.

Discussion on bonding and if this could be bonded. Mr. Farrell stated that the amount is too small and the article does not allow for bonding.

Mr. Surface asked the board about a split of \$110K from Free Cash and \$110K from the Stab Fund.

Mr. Farrell gave the balance of the Stab Fund and the board had a discussion on the percentage that should be in the fund and percentage we have in the fund (3.3%) and should be 5%. Mr. Surface stated that the 5% is a recommended number not a requirement. Mr. Fowler asked what we are allowed to spend. Mr. Farrell stated that we are way below what the town is allowed. He stated that with the School Bond we maintained an AA bond rating. He stated that there are a lot of factors involved.

Discussion on funds from which account and the percentage change to the Stab Fund.

Mr. Dawes stated that he feels we should know what the property will be used for before purchasing the property.

Mr. Surface stated that we will be voting to return funds to the Stab Fund tonight.

Mr. Fowler asked if we have to vote to put the \$92K back in the Stab Fund and could we use those funds for the purchase.

Mr. Farrell stated that we could not we would have to rescind the vote taken to appropriate the \$92K at the spring ATM and then the funds would go to the General Fund. He stated that he would recommend the \$110K from each fund.

Mr. Fowler asked how the FinCom felt about the funding. Mr. Farrell stated that they were mixed and were waiting to see how the board wanted to fund.

Discussion on the Healthy Farms funds and if they could be used to replace funds taken from Stab Fund.

Mr. Sadler stated that they need to talk to FinCom and see how they feel.

Mr. Bonavita asked about short term borrowing and if this could be included with the Elm Street Bond. Mr. Farrell stated that we cannot do this as the wording for a borrowing is not in the article.

Mr. Sadler stated that he supports the purchase and this may take a few months to settle. Mr. Farrell stated that the bank is not familiar with working with a municipality and this is holding up the process some.

Mr. Surface asked if the board are all on board with the split funding. Mr. Fowler stated that Mr. Surface should talk with FinCom and see if they are onboard with the split funding. He stated that someone also need to do a presentation explaining the purchase. Mr. Surface stated that the Police Chief stated he would explain history of property and supports the purchase. Mr. Fowler stated that under Economic Development he supports the purchase and that the area can also be used for parking for the Rail Trail.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the property may be able to be used for some type of multi-use space for Police or Fire and also in some way to generate funds.

Police Chief Cudmore explained the history of the area. He stated that there were two other homes on the other side of the driveway but they were purchased and torn down and the now CVS building went in. He stated that the home has seen a lot of turnover and this has been an issue. He stated that they have tried to work with the homeowners and not put on sirens when leaving. He stated that we are not good neighbors.

Mr. Surface and Mr. Bonavita stated that closing costs need to be added to the cost. Mr. Surface stated to add \$5K for the closing costs.

Mr. Fowler moved to recommend on Article 4: Purchase of Real Estate 45 Central Street the funding source to be \$110K from Free Cash and \$115 from the Tax Stabilization Fund. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

6:14PM

Board recessed while Chairman Surface discussed the funding source for article 4 with FinCom.

6:33PM

Board returned to open session.

Mr. Surface stated that the FinCom was on board with the Article 4 funding source.

Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom will read the motions for Article 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Mr. Surface asked Mr. Fowler to read the motion for Article 4.

Mr. Farrell stated that the Water Department will read the motion for Article 6 and the Planning Board will read the motion for Article 7.

Mr. Farrell stated that the board still needs to vote on the funding source for Article 5 Removal of Underground Fuel Tank. He stated that the FinCom agree with using Free Cash.

Mr. Dawes moved to recommend the funding source for Article 5 Removal of Underground Fuel Tank to be Free Cash. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Mr. Surface stated that the board has to vote their support for the articles.

Mr. Sadler moved to support Article 1 Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to support Article 2 Capital Project Fund Transfer. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to support Article 3 Conservation Commission Revolving Fund for Camp Denison. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to support Article 4 Purchase of Real Estate. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Sadler moved to support Article 5 Removal of Underground Fuel Tank. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to support Article 6 New Water Storage Tank and Water Main Improvements. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Discussion on Water Department article.

Board Business

Mr. Surface asked for an update on the Senior Center. Mr. Farrell stated that they have a tentative move in date of December 5th.

Mr. Surface asked about the Long Range Financial Plan. Mr. Farrell stated that he has been told that we will receive the plan in November.

Mr. Surface asked that a date be set for a site visit to the Senior Center to see how it has progressed.

Mr. Surface asked that board to work on the Town Administrators review and get them to him as soon as possible. He asked Mr. Farrell to give them an update on what projects he is working on.

Host Agreement Update

Mr. Dawes and Mr. Farrell updated the board on the host agreement.

Mr. Fowler moved to adjourn. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned to Special Town Meeting at 6:55PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 21, 2016.