



Finance Committee

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Earl Gabor, Chairman
Sarah Sansom, Vice Chairman
Christine Jackel, Recording Secretary
Nick Adamopoulos
Laura Backus

Laurie Bysiewicz
Neil Dixon
Mike Finamore
Carole Marchand

MINUTES
October 30, 2017

Present: Nick Adamopoulos, Laura Backus, Neil Dixon, Mike Finamore, Carole Marchand and Sarah Sansom

Absent: Laurie Bysiewicz and Earl Gabor

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order on October 30, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room at BHS by Vice Chairman Sarah Sansom.

Warrant Articles

When the committee last met their vote was to pass over Article 7 for more information. What the T/A presents at the STM will be to borrow or use retained earnings is what will be voted on. Vice Chairman Sansom said the T/A will be presenting three (3) options. The following is #3 and will be proposed by the T/A:

“Ask for an additional appropriation of \$350,000 from water retained earnings. We have asked our engineers and design team to look at options for reducing the costs of the building. This is a very Spartan building to begin with, it has only the essential items. However, after reviewing, there are a few items we can cut back on. For instance, we can move from copper to aluminum down spouts and we can just patch Memorial Drive rather than overlaying it with new asphalt. With some minor adjustments such as these, we feel comfortable that we can complete the project with an additional \$350,000. The Water Department has just over \$650,000 of retained earnings certified. By funding the \$350,000 appropriation from retained earnings it will not directly affect the future water rates.” This is our recommended option. With option three being the most advantageous, we will be making the following motion on town meeting floor: *“I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$350,000 of water retained earnings for the purpose of constructing a water treatment plant, including but not limited to costs for planning, designs, site preparation, construction, furnishing and equipping as well as all other costs incidental or related thereto.”*

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from any available funds in the Treasury, or borrow a sum sufficient for the purpose of constructing a water treatment plant, including but not limited to costs for planning, design, site preparation, construction, furnishing and equipping, as well as all other costs incidental or related thereto and, if necessary, to meet said appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; or take any action thereon.
Sponsored by the Town Accountant – Finance Committee Pass Over for More Information

There was some discussion and the committee agreed that changing from copper to aluminum would be a large cost savings; as for patching Memorial Drive, this should not pose a problem as we do not plow in winter. Mr. Finamore said he agreed with #3 as long as there was no borrowing. Since the printed article remained unchanged there seemed no reason to change the previous vote. The people can vote after the TA presents more information at TM.

Article 2: “At the October 16, 2017 town meeting, we passed over an article to change the administration of the Fire Department with the understanding that it would be better addressed through a charter change. Our intent is to have the Fire Chief appointed by the Town Administrator and not a Fire Board of Engineers. Currently, the Fire Board of Engineers is made up of the Fire Chief and his two deputies.” If this becomes effective, the terms of any incumbent member of the Board of Fire Engineers shall be terminated, and the Board of Fire Engineers abolished.

Article 5: This would amend the Town Charter to increase the size of the Board of Health from three (3) to five (5) members, with the two (2) new members to be appointed, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee.

Mr. Finamore asked if the DOR had presented their report to the selectmen yet. Vice Chairman Sansom suggested that there is no reason to rush this. She said when the FY17 audit is done, the DOR will look at auditor recommendations to see if the Town has followed through. Mr. Finamore said the audit in FY02 was the same situation, auditors didn’t check documents and the problem has been going on since then.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Vice Chairman Sansom and seconded by Carole Marchand to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Jackel. Recording Secretary