



Town of Medway

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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**April 6, 2016 – 7:00 PM
Medway High School Library
88 Summer Street**

Present: Frank Rossi, Chair; Chris Lagan, Vice Chair; Todd Alessandri, Clerk; Rohith Ashok; Ellen Hillery; Jeff O'Neill; Michael Schrader (7:15 PM)

Absent: Meghan Hoffman, Member; Jim Sullivan, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; Bob Weiss, Energy Manager.

Others Present: Dennis Crowley, Selectman; Maryjane White, Selectman; John Foresto, Selectman; Larry Ellsworth, Energy Committee;

7:00 PM -- Public Hearing:

At 7:00 PM Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public input on any articles being presented at the 2016 Special Town Meeting and 2016 Annual Town Meeting that will not be heard in public hearing held by other municipal boards; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

Town Administrator Michael Boynton briefly updated on the budget article, noting that it is a balanced budget. He stated that an additional \$10,000 was put into the workers compensation line item while local receipts went down.

At this time, Chairman Rossi asked if there were any citizens to offer public input on the Warrant Articles or if there were any questions. There were none.

At 7:05 PM Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee close the public hearing; Mr. O'Neill seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0.

At 7:06 PM Chairman Rossi called the regular meeting of the Finance Committee to order.

Discussions/Presentations:

Presentation – Energy Committee, Article 23:

Present: Bob Weiss, Energy Manager; Larry Ellsworth, Energy Committee

Mr. Weiss stated that this article gives the Board of Selectmen the authority to research, plan and contract for electrical aggregation so that the Town can enter into agreements with suppliers on behalf of the residents of Medway. Right now, 70% of residential individual electric bills are with the electric utility. Customers have the option to elect service with an energy supplier other than the regular electric utility company and 30% have done this. By law, the utility companies have to get new prices every six months. The one drawback to contracting elsewhere is that the customer has to lock into a contract during which time they pay the same rate, even if the prevailing rate (fluctuating) should be lower. They can, however, opt out of the contract at any time. Customers from every community are then combined which allows for the lower rate to all.

Mr. Ellsworth added that there is no cost to the Town (municipal government) other than having someone review the contract. There is also no benefit to the Town other than being happy with lower rates for those residents who opt in. Mr. O'Neill asked for more clarification on why the Town should pursue this kind of arrangement and just do a mass mailing on its own. It was noted that, if this kind of agreement and aggregation were in place, the 70% not currently under a contract would automatically receive the lower rate. Mr. Alessandri asked if there would be any administrative costs to the Town. No, any changes will be handled by the provider. It was noted that residents will receive information from either the provider or a broker acting on behalf of the provider. Brief discussion followed.

Chairman Rossi asked why the terms are for more than three years. Mr. Boynton responded that there is a statutory provision that, for terms shorter than three years, Town Meeting action may not be required. The longer the term, the lower the rate may be.

Warrant Review -- 2016 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting – Final Preparations including Finance Committee recommendations:

The committee reviewed the 2016 Special Town Meeting Warrant and 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Special Town Meeting

At this time, the Finance Committee votes its recommendations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 1 -- Free Cash Transfer: Snow and Ice Deficit: **Mr. Schrader moved that the Finance Committee designate its recommendation on Article 1 as To Be Determined (TBD); Mr. O'Neill seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 2 – Solid Waste Retained Earnings Transfer: Waste Loader Repair: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 2 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 3 – Extend Expenditure Deadline; May 2015 Special Town Meeting Article 9 – Shaw Street Bridge Repair: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 3 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 4 – Transfers to Electricity Accounts: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 4 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 5 – Transfer to Revaluation Account: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 5 as written; Mr. Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 6 – Prior Year Bills: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 6 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Annual Town Meeting:

Regarding Article 1, Mr. Boynton reported that a lot of people were in favor of the PILOT agreement at the public meeting, yet they were opposed to the project itself. It was noted that the FAQ section may be included in the Town Meeting Report. Selectman Crowley added that there has been increased public outreach to provide information. A resident who has been very outspoken will be given the option to make a motion from Town Meeting floor, a motion to make a minor change to the article language. Mr. O'Neill asked for a copy of the PILOT agreement. Mr. Boynton reported that it is presently posted online on the Town's website. Is there any potential to expand the scope of their project? Selectman Crowley reported that there is, but the tax consequences of such a change would have to be negotiated.

The Finance Committee now voted its recommendations on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 1 – Approve Exelon PILOT: **Mr. Lagan moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 1 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 2 – ESCO Stabilization Reserve Transfer: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 2 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 3 – Appropriation: FY17 Operating Budget: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 3 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 4 – Appropriation: FY17 Water Enterprise Fund: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 4 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 5 --Appropriation: FY17 Sewer Enterprise Fund: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 5 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 6 --Appropriation: FY17 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 6 as written; Mr. Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 7-- Appropriation: FY17 Ambulance Enterprise Fund: There was brief discussion on the use of the Enterprise Fund. **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 7 as written; Mr. Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 8 -- Free Cash Appropriation: Capital and Other Items: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 8 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 9 – Capital Program: Information Services: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 9 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 10 – Water Enterprise – Equipment: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 10 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 11 – Replacement Ambulance: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 11 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 12 – Fiscal Stability Transfer – Security Improvements at Elementary Schools: **Mr. O'Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 12 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 13 – Borrowing: Board of Health Water Pollution Abatement Projects: **Mr. Schrader moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 13 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 14 – Appropriation: Medway Day: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 14 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 15 – Fund OPEB Trust: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 15 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 16 – Create Athletic Fields Stabilization Fund; Transfer \$25,000: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 16 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 17 – Authorize Revolving Funds: **Mr. Ashok moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 17 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 18 – Appropriation: Community Preservation Committee: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee designate its recommendation for Article 18 as TBD; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 19 – CPA Appropriation: Trail Design and Engineering: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 19 as written; Mr. Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 20 – CPA Funds: Historical Document Preservation: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 20 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 21 – CPA Funds: Playground Improvements: **Mr. Lagan moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 21 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 22 – Accept Gift of Land and Fund Relation Acquisition Costs: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 22 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 23 – Authorization to Pursue Municipal Aggregation: **Mr. Lagan moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 23 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-2-0 – Rossi and O’Neill oppose.**

Article 24 – Amend General Bylaw – Hunting on Town Land: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 24 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 25—Easement Acceptances: Neelon Lane and Charles View Lane: **Mr. Ashok moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 25 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 26 – Amend General Bylaws: Design Review Committee: **Mr. Schrader moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 26 as written; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 27 – Amend General Bylaws: Parking & Storage of Recreational and Commercial Vehicles: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee designate its recommendation for Article 27 as TBD; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 28 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Accessory Family Dwelling Unit: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 28 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-1-0 – Ashok opposed.**

Article 29 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Site Plan Review: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 29 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 30 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Editing Zoning Bylaws: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 30 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 31 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: New Section Zoning District Boundaries: **Mr. Schrader moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 31 as written; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 32 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Definitions: **Mr. Alessandri moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 32 as written; Ms. Hillery seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 33 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Prohibited Uses: **Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 2 as written; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-2-0 – Alessandri and Lagan oppose.**

Article 34 – Amend Zoning Map: Rezoning from ARII to Industrial II: **After discussion, Ms. Hillery moved that the Finance Committee disapprove [not support] Article 34; Mr. O’Neill seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Upcoming Schedule:

Chairman Rossi reminded members that their subcommittee reports are due to him on April 8. He asked members to have their departments (relative to liaison assignments) review your submission to confirm any numbers or dollar amounts that are included. The complete report is due to the Town Administrator’s Office first thing on Monday morning. Discussion followed on including the Selectmen’s excerpt about the PILOT agreement in the Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, April 13 at 7 PM in Sanford Hall. There will be brief discussion on any articles still needing a Finance Committee recommendation and whether information will be available in time for this meeting.

There will be a Pre-Town Meeting, May 9 at 6:30 PM at Medway High School.

Approval of Minutes:

The committee reviewed draft minutes of March 9, 2016.

Ms. Hillery moved that the Finance Committee approve the minutes of March 9, 2016 as amended; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-2 – Alessandri and Ashok abstain.

At 9:06 PM Mr. O’Neill moved to adjourn; Mr. Schrader seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary