

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020

Members in attendance: John Trickey (chair), Cara Castenson (secretary), Emily Marriott, Bill Martell, and Fred Vanderbeck.

John Trickey called the meeting to order at 1:40.

Review and Approve Minutes from July 21, 2020

Bill Martell moved to approve the minutes from July 21, 2020, Fred Vanderbeck seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Review Warrant Articles for Fall Town Meeting

The first proposed warrant article is to address a clerical error in the spring town meeting warrant. \$25,000 was voted by town meeting for capital planning for the APRS 7-12 region, but the warrant lists \$20,000 in Article 5, item F.

The second proposed warrant article is to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the OPEB account.

The third proposed warrant article was to restore \$17,000 to the reserve account, to bring our yearly contribution back to \$87,000. The amount was decreased at spring town meeting to allow for planning for budget shortfalls due to COVID.

The fourth proposed warrant article relates to the installation of a new energy-efficient heat-pump HVAC system at the library. The amount of \$45,000 is requested from the capital stabilization account, which is less than original estimates due to additional grants that have been received to offset the cost. The \$45,000 will be added to the \$68,000 already set aside and will cover the remaining cost of the project.

Lastly, the committee discussed the non-binding resolution to support, at a future town meeting, the expenditure of up to \$500,000 from Community Preservation Act funds to support the affordable housing project on Amherst Road. Emily Marriott asked about the finance committee's rationale for supporting the resolution, regardless of members' personal opinions. John Trickey answered that, by state law, affordable units must comprise 10% of the town's total residences, and that this project would make significant progress toward that goal, while allowing the town to retain some control over the development. Additionally, while the complex will not generate significant tax revenue for the town, it would provide benefits for older residents who may want to reside there, and may bring younger folks to Pelham who could volunteer at the Fire Department and who may want to stay. Emily Marriott inquired whether it could bring more business; while some may be possible, the geographical location for new business in the town remains limited.

There was a motion and a second, and the articles were approved unanimously.

Member Updates

Emily and Cara have been meeting with the town's departments to learn more about their operations. They met with Police Chief Gary Thomann last week, and have upcoming meetings with Fire Chief Ray Murphy and Highway Superintendent Rick Adamcek.

Unanticipated New Business

The annual Association of Town Finance Committees seminar will be in October, and members would like to attend. Emily Marriott moved to spend \$25 per member who will attend the meeting to cover the registration cost, Fred Vanderbeck seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Emily Marriott made a motion to adjourn, Fred Vanderbeck seconded, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:51.