

Town of Acton Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2015
Room 204 – Acton Town Hall – 7:30 PM

In attendance: Chairman Michael Majors, Vice Chair Margaret Busse, Roland Bourdon, Bob Evans, Jason Cole, Shuyu Lee, Steve Noone and David Wellinghoff.

Absent: Doug Tindal.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Majors at 7:31PM

There was no public comment

Minute Man Regional Vocational Technical

Meeting question and answer with Selectwoman Janet Adachi regarding the Amended Regional Agreement.

- There are 16 current members and the new agreement if passed by the 16 towns would allow 7 of the member towns to withdraw from the school with the approval by that town's town meeting or possible ballot vote.
- Non-member towns that send their students to the school need to pay tuition and if approved by the Mass School Board Capital Improvement Fee. Rates would be lower for member towns.
- The Acton BOS will be voting at their next meeting on having a Special Town Meeting February 2nd in order to vote on the Amended Regional Agreement for Minute Man Vocational Technical. This needs to happen before Module 5 – The Finance Module can be voted on and we know which towns voted to withdraw from the district.
- Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) smallest school size in order to receive funding is 600 students. The school proposal is for 628 students.
- If this does not pass by all 16 towns (Amended Agreement and Financing) by June 30, 2015 then the district will be removed from receiving the 40% funding. If approved at a later date then the funding level is a lot lower.
- Currently Arlington - 117 students, Lincoln - 10 students, Sudbury - 25 students, Lexington - 44 students, Acton – 33 students.
- Nashoba Valley Vocational Technical has a lower tuition rate.
- Steve Noone noted: If the new agreement is passed by each town the representation is then proportional and Acton's 1/16th vote will be a lot less and the school will then basically be run by Arlington because they have the most students.
- If every town votes to have the right to withdraw and that happens, then there is no region.

Acton Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) School Capital and Space Planning Committee

- A member of the school committee was unable to attend
- A memo from the ABRSD was read by Chairman Majors
- Discussion centered around how do we as a committee balance the Municipal vs. ABRSD Capital needs in the future
- Committee tentatively appointed Doug Tindal and Jason Cole to the ABRSD School Capital and Space Planning Committee with the understanding that they will also be asked to serve on the municipal side in that capacity as well. The committee will vote on the appointments at the next meeting in January since Doug Tindal was not in attendance
- One question the FinCom wants answered is: What is the authority of the ABRSD School Capital and Space Planning Committee: Will they be taking votes and making recommendations?

Health Insurance Trust

- Bob Evans updated the committee on the approved Draft Audit:
 - o Loss of \$140,000 for FY'15
- Current year it is cash positive
- January they will have the estimated rate and will vote on it in February

Point of View (P.O.V.): Has been published. The goal of the Finance Committee is to move away from using reserves as a way to balance the budget and that may have not been as clear as it should have been in the P.O.V.

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Working Committee: Steve Noone reported that the town is in good shape and on target or better. The schools are not in as good of shape and are below target.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

- Met with South Acton Congregational Church in regards to preserving the structure with repairs to the roof.
- Met with Acton Congregational Church (Acton Center) in regards to the restoration of stained glass windows and having a Master Plan funded. The funding of the Master Plan is a judgement call per Town Council, however the committee has funded two in the past (West Acton Baptist Church and Theater III)

Kelly's Corner Steering Committee

- Peter Richard (Chair of Kelly's Corner Steering Committee Wants to come and meet with FinCom on January 12, 2016.

Budget Saturday is January 9, 2016 in Room 204 of the Town Hall

- All questions on the budget need to be funneled through Chairman Majors so the finance department is not answering the same question multiple times.

South Acton Train Station Committee

- Committee has not met, however the station has been completed and is open
- Parking will be the next area to be worked on

January meetings are January 12th and 26th in Room 304 at the Town Hall at 7:30PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully submitted,
Roland Bourdon