

Finance Committee Meeting
Room 204 Town Hall
October 14, 2014
MINUTES

Members Present : Mike Majors, Bill Mullin, Mary Ann Ashton, Steve Noone, Bob Evans, Herman Kabakoff, Doug Tindal, Roland Bourdon, **Absent:** Margaret Busse, Brian McMullen

Chairperson Steve Noone called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairperson led a brief overview of this evening's agenda items.

- I. Public Participation - None
- II. Discussion of Senior Tax Relief

After a discussion of the topic and the Sudbury Means Tested Senior Tax Exemption plan, Bob Evans made the following motion

I move that the Finance Committee support an article at town meeting and encourage the Board of Selectmen to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be expended by the Board of Assessors to provide abatements of local property taxes in FY16 limited to

1. Seniors who have lived in Acton for at least 10 continuous years on Jan 1 2014
2. Who have filed and received circuit breaker (Mass form CB) refunds for calendar year 2014 and
3. Who paid Acton property taxes in 2014 that exceeded 10 percent of their 2014 income, as defined by the state's circuit breaker form (CB) by more than \$1030.

Motion was seconded by Doug Tindal

After discussion a motion was made by Mary Ann Ashton to lay this motion on the table until our next meeting on Oct 21.

The motion was seconded by Bill Mullin
Motion carried unanimously

III. Acton Leadership Group - the chair reported on the meeting of October 8 making note of the assumptions of 1% growth in State Aid and that the Special Town meeting would cover the Nursing Service, Police civil service and zoning articles. The chair stated he would cover the nursing service articles, and assigned the police articles to Mike Majors and the zoning Articles to Doug Tindal

IV. Board Meeting - the chair reported that long range planning model was in good shape thanks to the efforts of Mary Ann and that he was in discussion with the other chairs about logistics and planning

V. Global Cash Flow- discussion was postponed due to Brian Mc Mullen's absence

VI. Public Outreach - The chair asked members who were interested in attending any of the scheduled meetings to let Margaret know

VII. Point of View - The drafting committee of Bill Mullin, Doug Tindal, and Mary Ann Ashton discussed a draft Point of View document which had been sent to the members earlier in the day. Some of the key points are as follows:

Include lower tax increase,

Additional tax relief programs for senior citizen taxpayers.

Bump up again the OPEB contribution to \$1.4mm, but level off at that amount

Examine and determine the value of a stabilization fund

Suggest formation of a formal Capital Planning Committee, to plan for future capital expenses, both maintenance and new.

- Included in the scope of this committee would be a thorough tracking of all the town's physical assets to include factors such as forecasts of increasing repair and maintenance costs on older assets, remaining useful lives on building components, and **estimated replacement costs**.

The chair commended the subcommittee members for a job well done.

The various points were discussed with the members expressing particular support for a lower than 2-1/2% tax increase, establishment of a stabilization fund, and limited reserve use. The drafting committee will reflect the comments in a second draft.

Finance Committee Business

Committee Reports

- Roland Bourdon- CPC
- Herman Kabakoff - BoS
- Bob Evans moved and Doug Tindal, seconded approval of the minutes of September 16 . Motion carried unanimously

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT MEETING:

1. Draft POV