



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 24th, 2016

Acton Town Hall • Room 204 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, Jason Cole, Steve Noone, Mike Majors, Margaret Busse (Chair), Doug Tindal (Vice-chair), David Wellinghoff (Clerk), John Benson (Associate)

Members Absent: Roland Bourdon, Shuyu Lee

Other: Janet Adachi (BoS)

Chair Busse called meeting to order at 8:01

Introduction of John Benson as Associate Member. Previous finance committee member in 1982-85. Lawyer. Welcomed to Finance Committee.

Public participation – none

Approval of Minutes – Mr Noone moves approval of Jan 26, 2016 minutes. Motion passes. Mr Noone moves approval of May 10, 2016 minutes. Motion passes. Chair Busse would like to review minutes ahead of time for upcoming meetings. Going forward would like to have minutes sent out 1-2 days before meeting.

Fincom Calendar 2016-2017 – Chair Busse discusses upcoming calendar for next twelve months which is typically every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

Committee Assignments – Discussion regarding liaison and statutory assignments on committees. OPEB committee inactive currently. Chair Busse would like to shift Acton 2020 responsibilities to Mr Benson who accepts. Mr Cole volunteers to assist Mr Noone on School Committee as secondary support. Mr Majors and Mr Benson volunteer for Walker

property committee (one voting member). Mr Noone volunteers for Town Capital Planning Committee. Subcommittee assignment discussion follows. Mr Evans questions usefulness of point-of-view document and practical implementation. Chair Busse describes value of document to various audiences. Mr Noone suggests a shorter document and better outreach. Mr Majors comments document length and scheduling could be improved. Chair Busse suggests no document now and Clerk to document in the future. Mr Noone comments on Long Range Plan updates and himself being the only content expert. Clerk Wellinghoff to review Long Range Plan with Mr Noone. Chair Busse would like more analysis done on reserve use to demystify its movements and looking for volunteers to investigate. Chair Busse to discuss with Mr Lee if he has an interest.

Committee Updates – Mr Majors provides update on Minuteman. Building Committee consensus was to reengage Belmont and to avoid district wide referendum which could cause more problems. They will discuss with the MSBA to get an extension on the deadline and try to improve Belmont positioning. Ms Adachi notes June 20th meeting of town representatives. June 14th debt exclusion vote at Arlington. Notes if you have 15 of 16 towns in favor the MSBA could look more favorably on an extension. Potential for district wide ballot on June 18th. A lot of uncertainty currently. Vice-chair Tindal comments on the need for state government support of this project to avoid these issues. Ms Adachi comments the new governor is interested in vocational education, however, being an affluent community we may be expected to resolve our own issues.

Mr Evans comments on Health Insurance Trust and current issues. Paint color choice for town hall ongoing. CPC did recommend doubling the CPC tax rate to the Board of Selectman which was voted in support 3 to 2. Mr Evans believes item should wait for regular town meeting as a tax issue. Mr Noone comments he is opposed to item being presented outside of regular town meeting.

Chair Busse comments on Kelley's corner meeting and decision not to dissolve committee.

Chair's Updates – On feedback for Dr. Brand, Chair Busse is happy to coordinate and send out Fincom thoughts. Discussion on whether there is a need for more training for new members. ATFC meeting in October on a Saturday is the best option for new member training. Different alternatives for bringing new members up to speed including In-house Fincom training, three-boards meeting, MMA, etc. Vice-chair Tindal proposes a point person on education. Chair Busse suggests the Vice-chair pick up assignment. Mr Noone suggests having a rating agency presentation on what they look for in evaluations. Discussion regarding staff support for Fincom and whether or not that would be appropriate. No decision reached on staff support.

Next Meeting June 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Wellinghoff
Finance Committee Clerk