

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stumpf at 8:05 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room B at Town Offices. The meeting was taped but not live cablecast.

In attendance were: Chairman S. Jon Stumpf, Linn Anderson, John Barry, Jr., Margaret (Peggy) Kruse, Joanne Marden, Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt, Max Arai, Greg Serrao and Bonnie Zahorik. Also present was Finance Director, Donna Walsh.

Approval of Minutes**January 28, 2015**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Barry and seconded by Ms. Moffitt, it was voted to approve the above minutes. Motion passed 9-0.

February 12, 2015

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to approve the above minutes as amended. Motion passed 9-0.

February 25, 2015

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Ms. Marden, it was unanimously voted to approve the above minutes as amended. Motion passed 9-0.

Joint Meetings**February 23, 2015**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Barry and seconded by Ms. Moffitt, it was voted to approve the above minutes. Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Arai abstaining.

February 28, 2015

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Kruse, it was voted to approve the above minutes as amended. Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Arai abstaining.

FY2016 Budget

Mr. Stumpf initiated discussion on the FY2016 budget, and Mr. Serrao raised health insurance as the first topic. Discussion ensued on the issue of proposed self-funding, and it was agreed that the following information was needed: a) claims loss data over the past five years; b) breakdown of the previously “bundled” cost between third party administrative provider, MIIA, and Blue Cross Blue Shield for the last five years; c) clarification of the assumptions made in the proposed high-deductible plan that would result in the projected savings to the Town of \$500,000; d) costs of aggregate limit and stop loss premium; and e) what percent of subscriber acceptance of the high-deductible option is in the health insurance line item, and what were the underlying assumptions.

Article P-3: Salaries of Elected Officials

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Arai and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-3. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-14: Chapter 90 Authorizations

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Serrao, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-14. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-12: Granting Easements

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Serrao, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-12. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-11: General Housekeeping Articles A, B, D, E and F

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Serrao, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-11, A, B, D, E and F. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-9: Free Cash

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Marden and seconded by Ms. Kruse, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-9 that no Free Cash be appropriated for the 2016 operating budget. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-20: Free Cash to OPEB Trust Fund

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Mr. Serrao, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-20 in the amount of \$1,248,316. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-28: Office Space Feasibility Study – Shawsheen School - \$130,000

Following discussion, it was agreed the Committee would hold on its decision, and that Ms. Kruse would request a scope of work detailing all deliverables for this project.

Article P-59: River Street Sidewalk Construction - \$301,000

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made by Mr. Serrao and seconded by Mr. Arai, it was unanimously voted to recommend disapproval of Article P-59 in the amount of \$301,000. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-33: Town Building and Facility Maintenance - \$1,200,000

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Ms. Zahorik, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-33 in the amount of \$1,200,000. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-34: School Building Maintenance and Renovation - \$455,000

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Serrao and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-34 in the amount of \$455,000. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-36: Andover High School Library Media Center Renovations - \$1,950,000

Ms. Moffitt updated the Committee on the answers to its specific questions on a) did this project include added space; b) what are all-in costs; and c) could some part be removed from this project if needed, i.e. skylights. Ms. Moffitt reported that no space would be added but the existing space would be enhanced to reflect the educational strategic plan; b) the space issue would be addressed in a later satellite project; c) all-in costs are not determinable at this time; d) modest initial furnishings are included; e) skylights are included in design scope of project and elimination cannot be determined at this time; and f) at least five to seven additional teachers would be needed for project implementation vis-à-vis the “H block” schedule in Fall 2016, and these costs are not included in this project; however, the project needs to be completed in time for opening of Fall FY2016 school year.

Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Committee that because all-in costs were not able to be determined at this time, and this was a key requirement for a recommendation of approval by the Committee, approval of this warrant would be put on hold. Mr. Stumpf asked Ms. Moffitt to invite Mr. Ataide and Ms. Gilbert to attend the meeting next Monday to clarify information needed.

Article P-35: School Site Improvements – West Elementary School - \$319,000

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Arai, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article P-35 in the amount of \$319,000. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-61: Devermond Ball Park Field Lighting - \$200,000

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Arai, it was unanimously voted to recommend disapproval of Article P-61 in the amount of \$200,000. Motion passed 9-0.

Article P-5: FY2016 Capital Projects Fund Appropriation - \$2,450,000

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Marden and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was voted to recommend approval of Article P-5 in the amount of \$,450,000. Motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Arai opposing on the basis that he felt the amount was too low relative to the amount in Article 4.

Article P-48: Balmoral Dam Removal

Following discussion, the Committee decided to take no position on this article.

Article P-49: Shawsheen School

Resident Roli questioned whether the School Committee had yet determined to approve use of the school for other than educational purposes. Ms. Moffitt responded that this space will in fact be available in the future and that the kindergarten students would be placed elsewhere.

Mr. Roli agreed with the Finance Committee's position that the lack of total costs of the High School Library project made recommendation of the project inadvisable.

Article P-51: Finish Charles Circle for Street Acceptance - \$80,000

Following discussion on the background of this article, it was decided to put this article on hold.

Resident Roli commented that the town should have been "in line" for funds following the declaration of bankruptcy of the developer for Charles Circle. Ms. Anderson reported that to date no record of a bankruptcy filing had been found.

Remaining Warrant Articles

In addition to the five remaining articles on which the Committee needs to vote, Mr. Stumpf noted the following articles on which the Finance Committee took No Position.

- P-1 Annual Town Election
- P-2 Election Not Required by Ballot
- P-11C Town Report
- P-41 Zoning Amendment Table of Use Reg for Medical Center/Clinic
- P-43 Relocation of Easement – 28 Foster Circle
- P-52, P-53, P-55, Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Assisted Living, Long-term Care, Congregate Living
- P-47 Amend Dimension Requirements in Industrial 2 Zoning District
- P-54 Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Rezone Land off Fleming Ave.
- P-45 Establish Historic Mill District
- P-46 Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Historic Mill District
- P-56 same
- P-44 Dimensional Special Permit – Historic Preservation
- P-62 89-93 Main St. – Outdoor Restaurant Seating
- P-63 Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Haverhill St and Tantallon Rd.
- P-60 Gas Pipeline Resolution
- P-57 Residential Neighborhoods – Town Yard

Article 4: FY2016 Budget

Upon motion made by Mr. Serrao and seconded Ms. Kruse, it was voted to recommend Public Safety in the amount of \$15,605,345. Motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Arai opposing.

Discussion ensued on obtaining more information particularly with regard to personnel growth in each department and its relation to OPEB. The remaining line items were put on hold.

Finance Report

Mr. Stumpf opened the discussion on the Finance Committee letter and the contents thereof. Ms. Anderson reported that she had received emails from members with feedback on the first draft of the letter, and asked members to continue to provide this feedback no later than April 1st.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 30th and Wednesday, April 1st.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Arai and seconded by Mr. Barry, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Minutes of Meetings