

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Zoom Meeting Number

817 5692 1216

NOV 25 AM 8:31

Date: October 15, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: Kupcinkas, Kuphal, Wells, Cooney, O'Connell, Cooper, Gillmore

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Kuphal to accept the minutes of September 21, 2020. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Motioned by Wells, seconded by Cooney to have Jennifer O'Connell and Charles Cooper be the Finance Committee representatives on the Charter Review Committee. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Cooney to have Jennifer O'Connell and Kevin Kuphal sign payroll vouchers for FY2021. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to open the Public Hearing on the November 10, 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant at 6:37 p.m. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

There were no public comments or questions on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Motioned by Wells, seconded by Kupcinkas to close the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Article 1-Stabilization Fund

Russell Wells: How much is in the fund now?

Jen O'Connell: I think it is around \$4 Million. We need to have at least 4% of our General Fund Revenues. I will look it up.

Russell Wells: This affects our bond rating.

Jen O'Connell: With this \$250,000, we will be at \$1.9 Million. Revenues are around \$45 Million.

Charles Cooper: So, this was suspended this year and we are making it up?

Jen O'Connell: This is coming from Free Cash. We didn't suspend it. We were waiting until now to do it.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 1 be accepted as written and that \$250,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds, transferred from Free Cash or otherwise funded for the purpose of Article 1. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Article 2-OPEB

George Gillmore: Do we have a health care reserve?

Jen O'Connell: I do not know.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 2 be accepted as written and that \$100,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds, transferred from Free Cash or otherwise funded for the purpose of Article 2. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Article 3-Accrued Liability for Compensated Absences (Reserve)

Jen O'Connell: I know that the Police Chief has a substantial amount of accrued time, which will need to be paid upon his retirement.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 3 be accepted as written and that \$100,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds, transferred from Free Cash or otherwise funded for the purpose of Article 3. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Wells, yes; Cooney, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Article 4-Overlay Account

Kevin Kuphal: We took \$464,000 from this account and it looks like we are putting back \$300,000.

Jen O'Connell: We don't have to return it.

George Gillmore: I think we may be doing this because of Article 5.

Jen O'Connell: I will get ahold of Jamie and get back to you on that. Jamie was giving back to the Overlay and using the offset for the Exemption Article. We didn't get a positive vote at the Town Meeting on the Exemption Article. We can hold off on this article until we vote and/or discuss Article 5.

Article 5-Real Property Tax Exemption

Jen O'Connell: The Finance Committee was not in favor of this at the Annual Town Meeting.

Charles Cooper: At the Town Meeting there were a lot of questions. I think, with this exemption, people felt that they would be paying more if this went through.

Jen O'Connell: Jamie was going to use the extra money to fund this. I don't think people will pay more if this goes through.

Russell Wells: If we have already increased this by 20%, then this would increase it another 100%.

Jen O'Connell: We can vote to indefinitely postpone this and I can reach out to Selectmen Naff and explain that his math is wrong. We can re-vote this at the Town Meeting if we need to.

6H-Cemetery Repairs and Upgrade Irrigation System-\$10,000

Jen O'Connell: We approved \$18,500 at the Annual Town Meeting.

6I-Veterans Monuments Upkeep and Repairs-\$17,500

Jen O'Connell: We gave them \$7,500 at the Annual Town Meeting.

6J-COA Program Administrator-\$20,000

6K-Town Manager $\frac{2}{3}$ year position-\$90,000

Jen O'Connell: The Board of Selectmen are looking at having an Assistant Town Manager. They would like that person to be Jamie Kelley. This would help transition the new Town Manager. That coupled with the Finance Director's contract not being renewed. It would be beneficial for the Town for us to have this position.

6L-Police Department Additional position-\$45,000

6M-Police Academy Tuition and Police Equipment-\$15,000

6N-Storage Area MOB-\$18,000

6O-Fire Department-Repair to Fire Engine-\$5,000

Kevin Kuphal: Are they proposing a new position in the Town Manager's office that would double the amount in the budget? Is this a permanent position or is it just a temporary fix?

Jen O'Connell: I am told that it is temporary. I was told that there shouldn't be a need to transition any longer than what we are budgeting for.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 6 be accepted as written. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 7-Construction and Services Costs-DEP 314 CMR 12.00

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 7 be accepted as written. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 8-Emergency Generator for MOB

Jen O'Connell: This was originally passed for the COA. They could not install it there because the generator pad would be on railroad property.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 8 be accepted as written. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 9-Easement for Sutton Road

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 9 be deferred to the Planning Board. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 10-Sewer Department-Sewer Main Repairs-\$500,000

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 10 be accepted as written. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 11-Goretti's-All Alcohol Package Store License

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 11 be deferred to the Board of Selectmen. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes, O'Connell, yes

The meeting for November 2, 2020 has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Motioned by Cooney, seconded by Wells to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Kupcinkas, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; Gillmore, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Jeff Cooney
Paul B. Wells
Nicol L. Cooney
BJ