



Town of Swampscott
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice Chair); Matt Kirschner, Jill Sullivan, Joan Hilario, Eric Hartmann, Gail Rosenberg, James Goldman, Cinder McNerny

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator – Administration and Finance

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

On **MOTION** (Mary Ellen Fletcher) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by roll call to accept minutes from September 21, 2020 meeting. Roll call: Tim Dorsey (YES), Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Matt Kirschner (YES), Jill Sullivan (YES), Joan Hilario (YES), Eric Hartmann (YES), Gail Rosenberg (YES), James Goldman (YES), Cinder McNerny (YES)

In relation to the financial implications of the potential new elementary school project, the Finance Committee discussed the impact of using excess levy capacity versus a debt exclusion. Excess levy capacity requires a vote of Town Meeting. A Debt Exclusion requires a referendum of the Town. Several members of the Finance Committee stated that requiring a referendum of the Town provided an opportunity for inclusive resident input.

Finance Committee Member Cinder McNerny requested that the Finance Committee be provided with the Debt Exclusion numbers themselves; she would like to see the amortization of the debt exclusion debt and how it's paying principal and interest on every fiscal year moving forward. She also requested that there be a summary of amortization schedules. Town Moderator Michael McClung will create a simplified table to share with the Finance Committee.

There was a review of the various processes that will take place to ultimately approve the project and funding. Matt Kirschner outlined the process, starting with the School Building Committee voting on the final school project concept on October 13. There was also a discussion of what votes would need to be taken at different stages regarding financing of the project. The Town Meeting approves the project itself and the borrowing and voters vote to exclude debt service from proposition 2 ½.

There was a conversation about what role the Finance Committee has in structuring the debt and providing information to the taxpayers before voting. Finance Committee Member Jill Sullivan clarified that there are two issues being discussed 1) Which school is being chosen and 2) How the school is being financed. At the moment, the Finance Committee is charged with making a recommendation to the School Building Committee about a preferred school option, rather than sorting through how it will be financed at this time.

The committee discussed the Town Meeting on November 16 and Assistant Town Administrator Mendes listed several of the financial warrant articles that will need to be discussed. The Finance Committee must submit recommendations by October 28 in order to appear in the printed warrant. The committee set a schedule for meetings the next few weeks to prepare for Town Meeting: October 15, 19, 22, 26, hold the 27th in case we need it. 6:30pm meetings

On **MOTION** (Mary Ellen Fletcher) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Tim Dorsey (YES), Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Matt Kirschner (YES), Jill Sullivan (YES), Joan Hilario (YES), Eric Hartmann (YES), Gail Rosenberg (YES), James Goldman (YES), Cinder McNerny (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allie Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 11/2/20