



Town of Swampscott
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday May 3rd, 2021 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice-chair), Eric Hartmann, Joan Hilario, Matthew Kirschner, Cinder McNerney, Gail Rosenberg, Jill Sullivan

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Michael McClung, Town Moderator; Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Asst. Town Administrator; Amy Sarro, Town Accountant; Patrick Luddy, Asst. Town Accountant; Angela Ippolito, Chair, Planning Board; Jackson Schultz, Chair, Harbor Waterfront Advisory Committee

Meeting called to order 7:03 PM

Approval of Minutes

None.

Public Comments

None.

Recommendations for Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article 3 – Approve Transfer of Free Cash – CBAs

Discussion on this article was postponed until the Wednesday May 5th meeting when more information may be available.

Article 4 – Approve Transfer of Free Cash – Stabilization/OPEB Funds

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Gail Rosenberg) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **SUPPORT ARTICLE 4** – Approve Transfer of Free Cash – Stabilization/OPEB Funds.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

[\$500,000 to Capital Stabilization Fund; \$250,000 to OPEB Trust Fund]

Article 5 – Approve Transfer of Free Cash – Transfer to Conservation Fund

Eric Hartmann asked for clarification that the amount of the transfer represents funds that the Conservation Collection previously collected.

Amy Sarro, the Town Accountant, clarified that the funds proposed for the transfer reflect amounts that the Conservation Commission previously collected. They fell to free cash because a revolving fund was not established at the time these funds were collected, leaving no mechanism for the Commission to expend the funds. She also clarified that this is a one-time transfer and should not be expected on future warrants now that the revolving fund is in place.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **SUPPORT ARTICLE 5** – Approve Transfer of Free Cash – Transfer to Conservation Fund.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 6 – Appropriation from Transportation Infrastructure Fund

Discussion on this article was postponed until the evening of Town meeting when the amount for appropriation may become known. The state has not currently released the town's TIF disbursement.

Article 7 – Authorize Increase for Retirees Cost of Living Base (COLA)

There was discussion regarding whether the dollar figure for the proposed increase to the COLA base in the warrant article would remain \$15,000 or be changed to \$14,000. The Select Board did not amend the dollar amount in the warrant. The figure may be amended on the floor of town meeting.

Eric Hartmann asked for clarification surrounding the incremental cost to FY2023 of increasing the COLA base \$1,000 to \$14,000. Jill Sullivan stated that the cost worked out to be approximately \$72,000 based on actuarial estimates provided by the retirement board.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Mary Ellen Fletcher) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **AMEND ARTICLE 7** – Authorize Increase for Retirees Cost of Living Base (COLA) on the floor of Town Meeting to **RECOMMEND AN INCREASE** to the **BASE** on which the retirees' COLA is calculated **FROM \$13,000 TO \$14,000**.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 8 – Acceptance of Local Option – Outstanding Checks

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **SUPPORT ARTICLE 8** – Acceptance of Local Option – Outstanding Checks.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 9 – Appropriation for Chapter 90 Roadway Improvements

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **SUPPORT ARTICLE 9** – Appropriation for Chapter 90 Roadway Improvements.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 10 – Appropriation for Recommended Capital Project – Windsor Avenue Park

On **MOTION** (Eric Hartmann) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **SUPPORT ARTICLE 10** – Appropriation for Recommended Capital Project – Windsor Avenue Park.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 11 – Appropriation for Recommended Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2022

There was some discussion surrounding the Harbor/Pier, Town Hall Basement-Buildout, and Town-Wide Security Camera capital projects.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Gail Rosenberg) it was **VOTED** to **RECOMMEND FAVORABLE ACTION** on **ARTICLE 11**, except for the Harbor/Pier project which requires further conversation prior to town meeting, and the Town Hall Basement-Buildout which the committee does not recommend.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 12 – Citizens’ Petition Article – A New Roof for the Middle School

Chairman Dorsey discussed the status of this article, including a proposed amendment that was forwarded by the petitioner. Moderator Michael McClung was recognized in the meeting and commented that he plans to speak with the petitioner over the next few days to seek clarity on any amendments that may be proposed.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Joan Hilario) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to **RECOMMEND INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF ARTICLE 12 – Citizens’ Petition Article – A New Roof for the Middle School.**

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

Article 15 – Acceptance of Public Ways

Cinder McNerney commented that she identified Article 15 as having financial implications relative to roadway upkeep, utilities, and snow plowing. She asked for clarification as to why these public ways were being accepted, as well as clarification surrounding the costs of acceptance.

Asst. Town Administrator Ronald Mendes highlighted that the developments were constructed with the intention of accepting them as public ways and the costs associated with acceptance are incremental.

Further discussion of this article was postponed until the incremental cost of accepting the public ways was quantified by town staff.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Cinder McNerney) it was **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.

ROLL CALL: Tim Dorsey (YES); Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES); Eric Hartmann (YES); Joan Hilario (YES); Matthew Kirschner (YES); Cinder McNerney (YES); Gail Rosenberg (YES); Jill Sullivan (YES)

True Attest,

Patrick Luddy

Patrick Luddy, Assistant Town Accountant

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 8/2/2021