



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Joint Capital Improvement Committee - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Monday November 9, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT:**

Cinder McNerney

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Raymond (Chair), Jay Sullivan, Kelley Begin, David Brodsky

**ABSENT:**

None

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator – Administration and Finance; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Max Kasper, Facilities Director; Peter Spellios, Select Board Chair; Rich Baldacci, Building Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

**TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

**ARTICLE 8 – APPROPRIATION FOR CAPITAL PROJECT**

Article 8 is a request for a capital project to pay the costs of upgrading/renovating the former Police Station located at 86 Burrill Street. There was an RFP issued to solicit potential tenants to occupy this facility. Facilities Director Max Kasper spoke to provide some information about the condition of the building. A portion of the building is vacant, though the back side is rented by the ambulance company. The intention is not to renovate it entirely, but provide some maintenance to allow it to be occupied. The facility is in need of \$190,000 to address immediate needs. Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald spoke briefly about the potential future use of the facility.

There was further discussion about the condition of the building and if there are other buildings that are degrading in as similar manner and if there are other capital needs.

On Capital Improvement Committee **MOTION** (Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Raymond) it was **VOTED** by roll call to recommend favorable action for Article 8. Roll call: Sullivan (YES) Begin (YES) Brodsky (YES) Raymond (YES)

On Finance Committee **MOTION** (Fletcher) and **SECONDED** (Hilario) It was **VOTED** by roll call to recommend favorable action for Article 8 subject to motion on the floor being specific as to bonding being the source of funding. Roll call: Sullivan (YES) Rosenberg (YES) Dorsey (YES) Hartmann (YES) Kirschner (YES) Hilario (YES) Goldman (YES) Fletcher (YES)

### **ARTICLE 15 - CITIZEN'S PETITION**

Article 15 is a Citizen's Petition. The impetus is the School site selection process. The Article is intended to raise \$3,000,000 via the tax levy and Direct Department of Facilities Management to make improvements to the three Elementary Schools.

Resident Torri Lorber spoke about the Citizens Petition and provided additional background.

The Finance Committee asked why it would be paid for by the tax levy and not a bond. Mr. Lorber responded that a bond would require a 2/3 vote and that this path reflects the conversation with people supporting the petition. The Finance Committee encouraged the petitioner to discuss further the implications of a tax levy as opposed to a bond.

Facilities Director Max Kasper spoke about the condition of the buildings and explained a masterplan document referenced in the Citizen Petition.

On Capital Improvement Committee **MOTION** (Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Begin) it was **VOTED** by roll call to recommend indefinite postponement of Article 15. Roll call: Begin (YES) Sullivan (YES) Brodsky (YES) Raymond (YES)

The Capital Improvement Committee, on **MOTION** (Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Brodsky) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the Capital Improvement Committee. Roll call: Begin (YES) Sullivan (YES) Brodsky (YES) Raymond (YES)

### **ARTICLE 6 – ADJUSTMENT OF RETIREE COLA BASE**

The Finance Committee then continued a discussion on its recommendation of Article 6, Adjustment of the COLA Base for retirees of the Swampscott Retirement System. There was concern that it may not be the right time to entertain this article due to current market conditions. Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald indicated that it is possible that there may be a good time to review this proposal before FY2031 but agreed that now is a difficult time to authorize this proposal at this time.

On **MOTION** (Hartmann) and **SECONDED** (Hilario) it was **VOTED** by roll call to recommend indefinite postponement of Article 6. Roll call: Matt Kirschner (YES) Jill Sullivan (YES) Joan Hilario (YES) Eric Hartmann (YES) Gail Rosenberg (YES) Mary Ellen Fletcher (YES) Tim Dorsey (YES)

Mr. Dorsey indicated that the remaining Articles for the Finance Committee to decide will be Article 4 (Collective Bargaining) and Article 5 (Transfer Free Cash to offset tax rate).

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

True Attest,



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Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

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