

**Finance Committee**  
**Minutes of January 27, 2016**  
**FINAL**

The Finance Committee met Wednesday evening on January 27, 2016, at the Town House Hearing Room, Concord, Massachusetts. Notice of the meeting was duly filed with the Town Clerk, Town of Concord, Massachusetts.

Members present: Terri Ackerman, Richard Giles, Richard Jamison, Linda Miller, Pat Nelson, Karle Packard, Wendy Rovelli, June Rzepczynski, Tom Tarpey, and Triveni Upadhyay.

Members absent: Daniel Cassidy, Mark Garvey, Paul McGinn, Scott Randall, and Phil Swain.

Also present: Tony Logalbo, Finance Director; and Janet Rothrock, Recorder.

Chair Giles called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. after the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting hearing to discuss what position the Finance Committee would take of the two Special Town Meeting articles.

Article 1, Amendments to the Regional School District Agreement of the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District

There was discussion of the pros and cons of voting to support the new agreement. Some of the points raised were:

- Once a town opts out of the agreement its students might not be admitted to Minuteman Career and Technical High School (MCTHS) as admission of out-of-district students is only on a space-available basis;
- Membership in the district affords certainty that students can attend MCTHS.
- It makes little difference to Concord's assessment if the number of in-district students is somewhat less than 400;
- Tuition for out-of-district students is less than assessments for students from member towns and will remain less under the new agreement although the difference will not be as great. Travel costs for out-of-district students are borne by their home district. Tuition for out-of-district students is set by the state.
- The cost per student is less if the full 628 student capacity is met.
- Concord has 17 students attending MCTHS now. The school serves them well academically as well as vocationally. All of the currently attending Concord students are on Individual Educational Plans.

The motion was made by Mr. Tarpey, seconded by Mr. Jamison, and voted unanimously in favor by the Finance Committee members. The Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting take affirmative action on Article 1.

Article 2, Authorize Long Term Lease for Nagog Pond Ground Mounted and Rooftop Solar Panels

Ms. Ackerman said she would recuse herself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest circumstance. There was discussion of the article.

Concord needs electricity to run the water treatment plant and electricity is expensive. The solar array would supply an estimated 25% of the plant's required electricity more cheaply and more sustainably than if the electricity was purchased from Eversource, Acton's supplier. It would be a net metering arrangement; Concord would provide electricity generated by the solar array to Eversource and receive a \$.075 per kilowatt hour reduction in the price of the electricity it uses to run the treatment plant.

On the other hand, there are 250 angry Acton homeowners who don't want a view of Concord's solar array from their homes (actually, only three homes would have a sight line to the array and Concord has offered to screen the view with plantings). The housing development has been constructed within the past two years on land that previously was a golf course. Three homes were built almost right to the line of the parcel that has been owned by Concord for many years. The solar array proposed to be built on Concord's property requires a permit from the Acton Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee decided that this is a housekeeping matter and that they would give approval of the plan leaving the Select Board to address neighborly relations.

The motion was made by Ms. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Jamison, and voted 8 in favor and none opposed with 2 abstentions by the Finance Committee members. The Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting take affirmative action on Article 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Packard', written in a cursive style.

Karle Packard, Clerk