

Finance Committee
Minutes of March 17, 2016
FINAL

The Finance Committee met Thursday evening on March 17, 2016, at the Town House Select Board 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, Paul McGinn, Linda Miller, Pat Nelson, Karle Packard, Wendy Rovelli, June Rzepczynski, and Tom Tarpey

Members absent: Daniel Cassidy, Mark Garvey, Scott Randall, Phil Swain, and Triveni Upadhyay.

Also present: Ardis Bordman; Robert Grom; Alice Kaufman, Chair, Select Board; Tony Logalbo, Finance Director; and Janet Rothrock, Recorder.

Chairman Giles called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and noted that the meeting was not being recorded or broadcast.

1. Approval of Minutes (as available): The minutes of the February 11 Regular Meeting were accepted with two edits and the minutes of the February 25 Regular Meeting and the February 29 Regular Meeting were accepted with no edits.

2. Correspondence: Mr. Giles reported that there was a request for the Finance Committee to support Article 8, Home Rule Petition to Establish a Concord Senior Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption, and a thorough and thoughtful email from Dean Banfield with a brief history of the school bus depot issue and a request to re-evaluate the depot location.

3. Chair's Report: Mr. Giles reported on the Select Board (SB) meeting of the 14th and the Chair's Breakfast on the 16th. The following points were raised:

- Bids for the bus depot are due on May 1
- The SB had a lengthy discussion of the Estabrook Woods parking issue and the formation of a committee that will eventually hold a hearing on the issue.
- A framework for raising \$3,000,000 for the Junction Village project includes a proposal for allocating \$1,000,000 over a period of two or three years from the Community Preservation Commission (CPC), an appropriation of up to \$1,000,000 from Free Cash, and possibly services in kind from the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP). Ms. Nelson, the Finance Committee's (FC) Junction Village project observer, reported that the developer must seek state level funding as part of his due diligence and that the Housing Foundation will likely contribute \$200,000 and the regional Home Consortium might allocate another \$200,000 if the project qualifies. Mr. Logalbo said that there are two state laws that may provide some tax relief if they apply: one aimed at improving blighted areas and the other to promote development where it wouldn't otherwise occur; but neither of these options would help to raise immediate funds.
- Article 44, By Petition, Request to Create a Concord Municipal Light Board Advisory Committee to Analyze Benefits of and Requirements to Implement a Single Revenue

Decoupled Time-of-Use Rate Structure, and Article 46, By Petition, Request to Create a Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal, Task Force, Funding & Plan, will not be moved.

- Article 45, By Petition, Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene in Food Service Ware, may be amended. Alice Kaufman will meet with the petitioner to review Article 45.
- The land referred to in Article 23, Land Acquisition, Ball's Hill Road, will be appraised again and the appraisal will be ready by Town Meeting. Article 23 requires a 2/3rds vote at Town Meeting.
- If the main motion under an article varies from the language of the article but is determined by the Moderator to still be within the scope of the Article, OR if any main motion is the subject of a floor amendment, the FC may need to caucus during Town Meeting. For that reason the FC needs to be seated near the front of the high school auditorium, preferably at a table.
- The Town Meeting Coordination Meeting is Thursday, March 20 at 3:30 P.M.
- Any written materials need to be submitted by Wednesday or Thursday before Town Meeting for copying.
- Article 48, By Petition, Work to Reduce the Sale and Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides, is expected to be moved as a resolution rather than as a Bylaw.
- The Concord Teachers Association negotiations are scheduled for March 24 and 29 at 4:15 P.M. both days.
- The superintendent search committee has started talks with the consulting firm,
- Eight high school principal candidates will be interviewed and there will be a public forum on March 29.
- Concord will receive a state grant to purchase an electric school bus.
- The Nagog Pond water treatment plant in Acton will be powered by a co-generation plant instead of the solar panels originally considered because the neighbors object to the size of the planned solar array. The difference in cost is not yet known.

4. Nominating Committee Report:

The Nominating Committee members are Mr. Giles, Ms. Nelson and Ms. Rovelli. The following officers are nominated for the 2016-17 year: Ms. Miller for Chair, Mr. Packard for Vice Chair, Mr. Jamison for Clerk and Mr. Tarpey for Guidelines Clerk.

5. Observer Reports:

Planning Board – Ms. Rovelli reported that the proposed W. R. Grace solar array has been approved.

Audit Committee– Ms. Rzepczynski reported that the Financial Audit Advisory Committee is formulating a statement of purpose, intent and scope with precise language so that everyone can understand its duties and responsibilities.

Concord Municipal Light Plant – Ms. Rzepczynski reported that the CMLP's strategic plan included a long list of items and that a consultant will be hired to prioritize them. Among the items are smart metering and expanding Concord's Broadband service to other communities. The CMLP Board recommends no action on Article 46.

Housing Authority – Mr. Packard reported that the website is going up soon and that the Peter Bulkeley Terrace renovations are ongoing.

Board of Health – Mr. Giles reported for Mr. Swain that the Board favors Article 45 with phased adoption and an education task force.

6. Town Meeting Preparation:

Article 17, Minuteman Regional Technical High School District Budget – The motion was made by Ms. Ackerman, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and voted unanimously in favor by the Finance Committee members. The Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting take affirmative action on Article 17 in the amount of \$423,444.

Article 25, Cemetery Roadway Infrastructure and Drainage Improvements – The motion was made by Mr. McGinn, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and voted unanimously in favor by the Finance Committee members. The Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting take affirmative action on Article 17 in the amount of \$157,392.56 with \$50,000 financed by a borrowing authorization and the balance from allocation of the remaining cash balances of past borrowings, as permitted by state law.

Mr. Giles reviewed the articles that the FC would speak about at Town Meeting (Articles 8 and 14) and those it would write about for Town Meeting (Article 18). The FC will meet at 6:30 P.M. the first night of Town Meeting to take a position on Article 45.

7. Finance Director's Report: Mr. Logalbo noted that Concord's FY17 budget assessment for the Minuteman Vocational High School changed after the Finance Report went to the printer and the final FY17 assessment amount is \$423,444.

FY16 General Fund revenue through February includes \$260,000 of FEMA reimbursement for shoveling snow from school rooftops during the winter of 2014-15. Also, \$205,000 has been received unexpectedly from the state government as Concord's share of a payment supposed to be made annually to the handful of municipalities that host state correctional facilities. This item – a textual reference within the annual appropriation of the Executive Office of Public Safety - has appeared off and on in recent state budgets, a \$1 million or \$2 million item in a \$30 Billion state budget. It is not part of the state aid "cherry sheet" process and Concord's annual budget never anticipates its receipt. It will, therefore, improve the next Free Cash balance at June 30, 2016.

8. Committee questions/comments: There were no comments or questions.

9. Citizen questions/comments: There were comments or questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karle Packard, Clerk

Documents consulted or reviewed at the meeting:

FY17 Budget Plan Changes 3/17/16 (prepared by the Finance Director)

Town of Concord, Local Receipts – Budget vs. Actual – FY16 General Fund, 8 months to February 28, 2016, with FY15 comparison. (prepared by the Finance Director)