



JOINT MEETING - BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Proctor School Teacher's Room
60 Main Street, Topsfield

Minutes of June 20, 2017
6:00 PM

Board Members present were Clerk and Acting Chairman Mark Lyons, Richard Gandt, Laura Powers and John K. Spencer. Of the Selectman's Staff, Kellie Hebert, Town Administrator, and Susan Winslow, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary, were in attendance. Chairman Boyd Jackson was not in attendance. From the Finance Committee, Chairman Karen Dow and members Che Elwell, Jon Guido, Michael Hartmann, Eric Menzer, Lou Ross and Dana Warren were in attendance. Jennifer Davis, Recording Secretary for the Finance Committee was in attendance. Town Accountant Catherine Gabriel, Water Superintendent Greg Krom and Town Moderator Steve Whelan were in attendance. Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg, Managing Attorney at KP Law, was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dow called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Acting Chairman Mark Lyons called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Article Third: Revised Figures Included

Finance Committee Member Lou Ross made a Finance Committee motion to appropriate the sum of \$10,400,000 for the purpose of constructing a water treatment facility including water transmission mains, pressure boosting station, control upgrades and other associated costs of the project including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c 78; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$9,250,000 and issue bonds and notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c 78; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c 78; that \$850,000 be appropriated from Water Department Enterprise Retained Earnings; that \$200,000 be transferred from Article Fortieth of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting; that \$100,000 be transferred from Article Thirty-Second of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting; that the Board of Selectmen, with the advice of the Board of Water Commissioners, is authorized

to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44 Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. Seconded by Eric Menzer, so voted 6-0 by the Finance Committee.

Article Fourth: Revised Figures Included

Finance Committee Member Lou Ross made a Finance Committee motion to recommend that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$84,000 which shall be transferred from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, with the advice of the Board of Water Commissioners, to fund fire sprinkler improvements to the Public Works Building. Seconded by Che Elwell.

Deliberation continued, however, when concern was expressed that the project would be funded solely by Water Enterprise Retain Earning for a building that is shared between both the Water Department and the Highway Department. Water Superintendent Greg Krom gave a description of the project and possible funding options including sharing the expense with the Highway Department. As these other funding options had not been finalized, consideration was given to postponing the project's appropriation request to the next Town Meeting. Finance Committee Chairman Dow called for a vote. Finance Committee Members voted 0 in favor and 6 against this motion, with 1 abstention (Dana Warren abstained because he arrived after the discussion on this Article was underway).

Finance Committee Member Lou Ross then made a motion to recommend no action on Article Fourth. Seconded by Che Elwell, so voted by the Finance Committee 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Dana Warren abstained because he arrived after the discussion on this Article was underway).

Dana Warren made a motion for the Finance Committee Meeting to adjourn at 6:44 PM, seconded by Che Elwell, so voted 7-0.

Selectman Powers made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to adjourn at 6:45 PM, seconded by Richard Gandt, so voted 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. 2017 June 20, 2017 STM Warrant

These Minutes were accepted as written at the July 10, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.