May 8, 2014

Town of West Bridgewater

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting convened at 7:03P.M. in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room in the West Bridgewater Town Hall.

Committee Members Present: Chairman James Lang, Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson (exited 7:48PM), Ms. Jeri Screnci, Mr. Peter Fredericksen, Ms. Cheryl Adams, and Mr. Steve Currier.

Absent were Mr. Anthony Kinahan, Ms. Jennifer Clark-Croes, and Ms. Maura Moroni.

Non Committee Members also present: Ms. Cheryl Cambria (Conservation), Mr. Chris Iannitelli (Conservation), Mr. David Gagne (Administration) and J.P. Waller (Secretary).

The meeting started with Ms. Cheryl Cambria and Mr. Chris Iannitelli providing the Committee with background information regarding Warrant Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. Regarding Article 14, Mr. Steve Currier asked how many people the Ester Drive location could hold; Ms. Cheryl Cambria guessed there were 40 to 50 units. Chairman James Lang asked if the Ester Drive location was owned by the town; Mr. David Gagne stated he wasn’t sure but properties like Ester Drive are typically owned by the town. Regarding Article 16, Chairman James Lang asked if the Church would receive funding if the historic preservation designation didn’t pass; Mr. David Gagne answered they would not. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson asked what the guidelines to be deemed historical property were; Mr. David Gagne answered age and importance in town history were some of the factors. Regarding Article 17, Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson asked what the expected long term use of the building was; Ms. Cheryl Cambria stated they originally planned on it being a museum and that is being reviewed by engineers currently. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson asked what happens if we don’t replace the doors; Ms. Cheryl Cambria answered the doors were in very rough shape and they swing open and water gets in. Mr. Chris Iannitelli added it will make the building secure and water tight. Mr. David Gagne added this is the first step to investigating other purposes for the building and that’s an original building and part of the heritage of the Town. Mr. Steve Currier asked how much was in the CPA fund now; Mr. David Gagne stated most of the funds in there are being used in these Warrant Articles. Mr. Steve Currier asked about the debt service; Ms. Cheryl Cambria answered it was for Anderson Farm and there was only 1 more payment. Mr. Chris Iannitelli shared his thoughts about the CPA value to the Town and how much has been able to get done with the matching grants that you are only eligible for in there is CPA funding.

Ms. Cheryl Cambria and Mr. Chris Iannitelli exited the meeting at 7:17PM.

The Committee then reviewed the following budgets:

Debt Principle Budget: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this budget and highlighted the new school line item of $800,000 which has already been approved by citizens of the Town. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson asked when this will affect residential taxes; Mr. David Gagne explained the timing
of this is based on when the bond is enacted. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson asked how much the average home tax bill would increase; Mr. David Gagne explained how the bidding of the bond progressed and the rates they were able to attain. He stated John Duggan and himself are currently estimating an average value home in Town of $285,000 would only see a tax bill increase of a little over $400 per year. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson motioned to approve this budget. Mr. Steve Currier seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Interest Budget: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this budget. Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson motioned to approve this budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The Committee then reviewed the following Warrant Articles:

Article 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: Mr. David Gagne provided background information on these articles and explained what Consent Articles are. Mr. Peter Frederiksen asked about the upper limits on the accounts; Mr. David Gagne answered these are required by Municipal law. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 3: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article. Mr. Peter Frederiksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 4: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 10: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Ms. Jeri Screnci motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Peter Frederiksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 11: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Ms. Cheryl Adams motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Steve Currier seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 12: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 13: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis of this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted
unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 14: Ms. Jeri Screnchi motioned to recommend this article for the budget. Mr. Steve Currier seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 15: Ms. Jeri Screnchi motioned to recommend this article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 16: Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this article for the budget. Mr. Peter Fredericksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 17: Mr. Peter Fredericksen motioned to recommend this article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnchi seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 18: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 19: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and stated this article and the next 5 were approved by the Capital Budget Committee. Ms. Jeri Screnchi motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 20: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and highlighted the fact that to save money only the desktop units are being replaced not the monitors and other peripherals. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnchi seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 21,22: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on these articles. Ms. Cheryl Adams motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Steve Currier seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Article 23: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article. Mr. Peter Fredericksen motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.
Article 24: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained how this fund is used to repair municipal buildings. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion with exception of Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson who was out of the room.

Vice Chairman Meredith Anderson exited the meeting at 7:48PM.

Article 25: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article. Ms. Jeri Screnci motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Steve Currier seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 26: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and provided examples of this tax will cost residents and its potential revenue generation. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Peter Fredericksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 27: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Mr. Peter Fredericksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 28: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and highlighted the tax implications including commercial versus residential implications. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 29: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained how this fund works and who will have control. There was then an open discussion about how Southeastern operates and how their funding from surrounding towns work. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to not recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 30: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained this article is for funding any potential union contract salary increase agreements. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 31: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and stated this article and the next 3 were approved by the Capital Budget Committee. Mr. Steve Currier asked how much the water department received for water meters last year; Mr. David Gagne answered $30,000 and he thinks the intent of the Water Commissioners for the increased amount this year is to replace all of the meters at once instead of piecemeal. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.
Article 32: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article. Ms. Jeri Scrceni motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 33: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained that the Water Commissioners are already bidding this project out hoping that it will be lower than the $1,700,000. Mr. Steve Currier asked if there was going to be any money received in scrap for the old tank; Chairman James Lang stated he thought they didn’t have any estimates for that yet. Mr. Peter Fredericksen asked why these articles weren’t going on department normal budgets; Mr. David Gagne explained this is because it’s not normal operating budget. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to recommend this Article for the budget. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Article 34: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained the need for the easement to give the utility company access to utility pole they replaced.

Article 35: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained how the resident in question is asking for an easement for the utility company to provide gas company and the resident to run the line. Mr. Steve Currier asked if this would be any future implications if the resident were to sell the house someone else.

Article 36: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article.

Article 37: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained there is currently no by-law for Town Administrator position in the by-law and this is to add it.

Article 38: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained how the mortiam is ended and there needs to be a by-law added or there will be no restrictions.

Article 39: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explained there needs to be a by-law with regards to billboards for clarification purposes.

Article 40: Mr. David Gagne provided a synopsis on this article and explains this is needed to make sure everyone is clear about Solar Farms in Town.

Mr. Steve Currier motioned to refer to the voters on articles 34-40. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Mr. David Gagne provided an update on the Finance Committee handbook and clarified the color photos on the cover cost and explained it will be funded out of the Board of Selectmen budget because the decision needed to be made.

Mr. Steve Currier motioned to accept for review the April 28, 2014 meeting minutes. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Mr. Steve Currier motioned to accept for review the April 30, 2014 meeting minutes. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.
Mr. Steve Currier motioned to accept for review the May 5, 2014 meeting minutes. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The Committee then had an open discussion about the Budget Message Update. Mr. Steve Currier motioned to accept the Budget Message Update as written. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Mr. Steve Currier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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J.P. Waller, Secretary

Jeri Screnci, Finance Committee Signatory

Meeting Documents:

1. Copy of April 28, 2014 meeting minutes
2. Copy of April 30, 2014 meeting minutes
3. Copy of May 5, 2014 meeting minutes
4. Copy of Proposed Warrant Articles for Town Meeting
5. Copy of Proposed Budget Message Update