



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 2nd, 2017

Public Safety Facility • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, Mike Majors, Jason Cole, Margaret Busse (Chair), David Wellinghoff (Clerk), John Benson (Associate), Steve Noone, Roland Bourdon, Shuyu Lee,

Members absent: Doug Tindal (Vice-chair)

Other: Janet Adachi (BoS), Brian McMullen,

Chair Busse called meeting to order at 7:30.

Public participation – None.

Minutes Approval – None.

Debrief Annual Town Meeting – Chair compliments town staff, BoS, and others for a well run process prior to the town meeting. Others note similar improvements. Comments that zoning articles may be to much minutia for town. Other comment that past Fincom members have heard feedback that developers think zoning is changed to often. Electronic voting may have shortfalls on tallying votes. Feedback positive on electronic voting, accuracy improved. Committee viewed the meeting as going well, admittedly without any real contentious articles. Can Committee use better outreach to proactively address concerns about articles that are recommended instead of dealing with them at town meeting (e.g. abutters on two articles during last ATM)? Controversial articles drive attendance at town meeting.

Fincom Leadership – Motion that Steve Noone becomes Chair, all affirmative. Motion that Jason Cole becomes Vice-chair, all affirmative. Motion that Dave Wellinghoff become Clerk, all affirmative. Incoming Chair Noone says a few words about outgoing Chair Busse.

Compliments her on her outreach efforts which have raised profile and visibility of Fincom and town finances. Also that Chair has worked to add more numbers to the warrant which had been sorely lacking. Also noted that she put a lot of focus on reserves and policies to manage reserves.

Preliminary thoughts on upcoming year – Boxboro Fincom would like to continue outreach. Reserves are a key area to stay on top of. Transportation is also an area that deserves attention. Nursing as well. Comment that School committee should present on current conditions at school at the next STM. Need to start taking a closer look at the Long Range Financial Model given the upcoming capital needs, increased assessments (Minuteman), projects (W. Acton sewer, N. Acton fire), and others.

Review committee updates – Sewer committee kicking off and looking for volunteers. Kelley's Corner looking to get federal/state grant for infrastructure. Need a volunteer to fill Margaret's position. School committee had a transportation study done to condense schedules from three to two. This would require additional buses and drivers with an estimated first year cost of \$750,000 which would then be split with the state in following years. Groundbreaking for Minuteman on June 14th.

Chair's minute – May 31st is new Finance Committee forum. Steve requests Committee email him the current committee assignments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Wellinghoff
Finance Committee Clerk