



Town of Acton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27th, 2018
Town Hall Room 204 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Jason Cole (Vice-chair), Mike Majors, Steve Noone (Chair), Roland Bourdon, John Benson (Associate), Christine Russell (Associate), Bob Evans, Christiana Andersen, Tom Farley

Members absent: David Wellinohoff (Clerk), Jeff Bergart
Other: Stephen Barrett (Finance Director), Brian McMullen (Assistant Finance Director)
Chair Noone called meeting to order at 7:30

Public Participation - None

Public Hearing on FY19 Budgets - FY19 Budget read into the record. No public comment.

Review and possible vote on FY19 Budgets for Town and School District -
Town: “” Spoke to need for subsidies to Ambulance Enterprise Fund. Municipal budget is balanced for FY19, with a spending increase of 2.54% over FY18.

Article 4: *Approved unanimously*

Article 22: Ambulance Enterprise *Approved unanimously*

Article 23: Transportation Enterprise *Approved unanimously*

Town and School budget paused for CPA Presentation and consideration.

Review and possible vote on FY19 Community Preservation Appropriations -
Presentation by Walter Foster, Chair Community Preservation Committee

Spending Appropriations

Requesting a total appropriation of \$1,159,131, leaving \$123,000 unencumbered in the Community Preservation Fund.

Part D - Is fund being used every year? Town Mtg failed to pass request for \$75k last year. Previously approved \$50k.

Part G - Work expected to be coordinated with town, in consideration of Kelly's Corner planning, however work would proceed regardless of status of Kelly's Corner initiative.

Article 7: *Approved unanimously*

State matching funds trending lower. Down to around 17% last year. CPP expects matching funds to increase going forward. Concern expressed over potential for traffic issues at Hosmer House site. Open Space Committee currently considering farm by South Acton Train Station, David Stone's House, and one other. AHA and ACHC does have Master Plan looking at aging facilities to anticipate future needs. CPC can do maintenance on Affordable Housing Units but not on Historical Buildings. CPC was approached by River St last year but project was withdrawn. Request for reimbursement for Town's purchase of River St property has not occurred. Lawsuit update: (Church vs State) Supreme Court's finding is pending.

Review and possible vote on FY19 Budgets for Town and School District - cont.

Article 10: *Approved unanimously*

Article 8: 750k station design matches cost seen in other towns for similar project. Design 5 years, bonding 20. Current stations 50-60 years old. Engine ~10 year useful life. HVAC ~10 year useful life. Street Improvements 5-10 year useful life. Acton Center Traffic Design ~20 year useful life. Year 1 interest only. Possible 250k with principal and interest in FY20. If design comes in under cost, funds may be applied to future construction costs with vote at future Town Meeting. *Approved, 1 opposed (Jason Cole)*

Article 5: JD Head, Bill McAlduff, Dave Verdonlini representing the school committee.

Goal (reached this year) is \$1m on Capital Spending each year. Concern expressed about growing School Budget's effect on taxpayer. No current formal process exists to cull needs identified in Master Plan and track those already addressed and anticipated to be addressed. Mr. McAlduff committed to sharing details and seeking input on 5 year Capital Plan. *Approved, 2 opposed (Bob Evans, Christi Anderson, Christine Russell*)*

Article 9: New signal at Charter Rd, Community Lane, changes to Hosmer property, amendments to properties. Bonding in the amount of \$469,000. *Approved, 1 opposed (Jason Cole) 1 abstention (Christine Russell*)*

Article 6: Assessment increase due to continued construction costs. Planned to finish 1 year early. Expected to realize significant savings. Anticipated opening Fall of 2019. *Approved unanimously.*

ALG - Discussed potential net position remedies to cover anticipated FY20/FY21 budget shortfalls.

Finance Committee Business:

Committee Reports -

Jon Benson - Town Manager applications culled from 58 to 16. Received essay question responses from 14 applicants. Plan is to interview ~10 applicants.

Christine Russell - School Committee priorities and Superintendent search update.

Bob Evans - HIT \$1.3M net income. Fund balance of \$7.2M

Upcoming:

Remaining Warrant Articles to be covered at meeting 3/13.

FinCom POV to be presented to Gates School on 3/12.

HighSchool POV rescheduled for 3/14.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Russell

Acting Finance Committee Clerk

*Associate Member - vote not counted