



Town of Acton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11th, 2018
Town Hall Room 204 7:30 pm

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(DRAFT: Committee approval needed)

Members in Attendance: Jason Cole (Chair), Mike Majors, Dave Wellinghoff, Jeff Bergart, Thomas Farley, Christine Russell, Steve Noone, Sahana Purohit (associate)

Absent: Christi Andersen (Clerk)

Other: Brian McMullen, Jon Benson (BoS)

Called to order at 7:30

Public Participation:

none

Introduction of Town Manager:

John Mangiaratti

Associated Environmental Systems (AES)

- 2015 - Special Tax Assessment for relocation to post office square.
- 5 year incentive worth approx. \$126,750.
- AES to invest \$3.1M, move in 47 employees, add 65 employees.
- Hold space available to town for 12 months (potentially for senior center). Space ultimately gifted/loaned to CASE Collaborative (\$470k gift, \$400k loan)
- New roof and solar (\$985k investment)
- Total investment in 8 Post Office Square = \$4.5M
- Reached 67 FTEs in May 2018. Working with town/state to resolve remainder of promised employee hiring. (Haartz also has had difficulty in attracting similar labor)

Insulet Corporation

- Based in Billerica, moving global HQ and US manufacturing to Acton in 2019
- Tax Increment Financing, gained in 2017
- 20 year tax incentive (phased in), only on improvements to property
- Ramping up workforce and operations sooner than expected
- Build-out including 300 car parking garage ongoing
- Sales employees working onsite now
- Aim to occupy building in Jan 2019 with 1,000 employees

Jason Cole expressed concern that entering into tax incentive agreements without any recourse for failure to meet expected milestones leaves the town with no recourse should they fail to meet those milestones. Asked Mr. Mangiaratti to provide a list of the concerns expressed by the Manufacturing Group that factor into the difficulty in hiring.

On September 20th, from 1-4, there will be a small speaking program and workshop at the Senior Center on the ins and outs of our Senior Tax Relief programs. Tables in the hallway with town staff providing a resource for seniors to interact and ask about services. **There will be cake.**

POV Conversation:

Drafting Committee: Christine Russell, Roland Bourdon, and Christi Andersen

Meeting Outreach Coordinator: Tom Farley and Sahana Purohit

Slides reviewed. Suggestions made. Changes are pending.

Final approval to be voted on at next FinCom meeting.

Finance Committee Business:

Submit questions/comments to Environmental Sustaining Working Group committee prior to 10/11/18.

Volunteers for Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting on 9/22: Jeff Bergart, Steve Noone

Volunteer Coordination Committee representative - Christine Russell

Minutes:

Minutes from 8/28/18 passed - 4 yes, 4 abstaintians

Committee Reports:

Christine Russells - School transportation is experiencing a shortage of drivers. At this time the transportation office staff is filling in driving buses.

Mike Majors - Walker property has been cleaned up. Will be cleaned again the Spring to maintain curbside appeal. Follow up to Manufacturers Workshop later this month and making progress.

Dave Wellinghoff - Train Station Committee continuing to discuss parking issues. Public participation is ongoing. Continuing to evaluate possibility of parking garage. Moving towards traffic study.

Tom Farley - BoS received Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the 4th year running. 36% reduction in trash and commensurate increase in recycling since changes to transfer station occurred. Town received \$250k in grant for update to LED lighting on town properties.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Russell
Finance Committee Clerk (Acting)