



Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2019

6:00 PM

Acton Boxborough Regional High School – Room 104E

Present: Roland Bourdon, Christi Andersen, Christine Russell, Jason Cole, Tom Farley, Mike Majors, Steve Noone, Dave Wellinghoff, Sahana Purohit, Al Vlajinac (Associate)

Absent: None

1. Opening

Vice Chair Christi Andersen opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. Pre Special Town Meeting discussion - Article 3.

Sal from Sal's Auto – Spoke regarding the process in which the West Acton sewer project evolved and stated the Town needed to be more open about process and have better public outreach and now there's been a change to the original motion at the last minute.

Board of Selectmen member David Martin explained the change from the original motion was just a matter of authorizing Phase 1 of the original project which would provide a sewer line down Mass Ave to Spruce Street and end at the campus of Gates School. Phase 2 of the project is bettering the remaining scope of the original project. This change allows the schools to connect to sewers and would reduce the total project cost while we review the Sewer By-Law and make any necessary changes as needed. The total number of sewer better units would be reduced from 300 down to 84.

The FinCom expressed concerns about deadlines for the school if they did choose to connect to sewers as of August 1, 2020 which is their drop-dead date.

The discussion on the benefits of sewers vs septic systems came up. Comments were made regarding the septic system discharge of dirty water vs sewers discharge of clean/clear water is better for the environment and good a reason for supporting this article. The conversation continued with the annual costs of sewers vs septic systems. Depending on the type of septic the annual estimated cost is less than \$1,500 vs sewers which was estimated around \$1,000 annually.

Emphasis was expressed that the phase 1 proposal was more commercial where phase 2 is more residential and any delay in phase 2 would allow the residential property owners to have a louder voice in the big picture perspective of sewers. The conversation continued around the cost to the end users and whether this is affordable or not. The sewer by-laws need to be reviewed and amended as it's been more than twenty years now. Keep the Town affordable for the people. Any proposed changes to the current motion are only going to surprise the citizens.



3. A motion was moved and seconded to recommend the amendment motion to “Article 3” - Motion failed

4. A motion was moved and seconded not recommend the original motion “Article 3” - Motion Passed

5. Adjournment

At 6:48 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

Special Town Meeting Warrant – December 10, 2019
Amended motion to Article 3

Respectfully submitted,

Finance Committee