

Finance Committee Meeting
July 24th, 2012

Attendees: Herman Kabakoff, Steve Noone, Pat Clifford, Doug Tindal, Bill Mullin, Mary Ann Ashton, Paulina Knibbe, Brandy Brandon, Absent: Bob Evans

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Doug Tindal

- I. Public Comment. None
- II. Approval of Minutes. Pending
- III. Energy Conservation – Russell Robinson and Corey York

Russell Robinson presented a summary of the status of recycling and waste management at the Acton Transfer Station. The town has negotiated a contract with a new vendor which is saving the town \$8 per ton of solid waste. In addition, the town continues to expand the type of items that can be recycled and works with an ever-shifting variety of vendors who will accept recycled items. The net result is that Acton's solid waste disposal was approximately 36 tons this year (down from previous years) and the recycled materials were approximately 16 tons this year (up from previous years).

Finance Committee members thanked Mr. Robinson for his initiative and for coming in and giving the Finance Committee a report. In particular, members were appreciative of the efforts to broaden the range of items that can be re-cycled. Finance Committee members suggested the following strategies to further increase recycling

- a. Increase communication about items that can be recycled (especially new ones). Website, a flyer that can be handed out with new stickers, Acton TV, etc.
- b. Clarify what items can be recycled at an extra fee and which are included in the sticker fee.

Mr. Robinson indicated that it would be helpful to have another person at the transfer station as many of these programs require more work.

- IV. Status Reports.
 - a. (Doug) ALG has not met. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th
 - b. (Mary Ann) Minuteman High School. The State Building Commission has moved the Minuteman Construction project to the Feasibility Stage. As such, it will be eligible for 40% reimbursement rate from the state for expenses incurred in the feasibility study. The Minuteman School Committee has voted to start the feasibility study.

The Minuteman School Committee is reviewing the admissions policy for non-residents. This has the potential to impact the design size for the school. The current plan is to design for a school size of 800 students.

- c. (Bill) Morrison Farm. Bill has re-activated the Morrison Farm Committee. The goal is to implement the project that has been approved by the Board of Selectmen with the intention of preparing an implementation plan for the consideration of Town Meeting in April 2013.
- d. (Steve) OPEB. The subcommittee is working on updating the year-old OPEB report to incorporate more current actuarial numbers, the actions that Town Meeting approved to begin addressing the issue, a summary of what other towns are doing plus a framework for evaluating possible solutions. They will be meeting soon to consider the new draft. Members of the School Committee and the Board of Selectman are also participating in the sub-committee's work.

The plan is to have this report done soon so it can provide input to the three boards (BoS, SC and FinCom) as they wrestle with finding a solution to this problem.

- e. (Bill) White Papers. Many of the issues that were dealt with in the white papers have moved forward in significant ways that make the value of the white paper project less apparent. Pat will look at the work to see if some of the components can be pulled out and posted on the website as stand-alone pieces.
- V. (Doug) Three Boards Project on long term planning. Trying to set up a time to meet. Likely to be in August. There will probably be a series of meetings.
- VI. Committee Updates
- a. BoS (Pat). BoS has hired a space study consultant. The Town Manager feels it is likely that the town will receive a AAA rating from Moody's again. The Nursing Service is holding its own.
 - b. CPC (Steve). The governor has signed the new CPC legislation. Three impacts for Acton:
 - i. More money in the fund which means there is likely to be a higher match for projects (up from 27% last year to 53% this year – likely)

- ii. Resolution of recreation facilities issues. It is possible to use CPA money to improve existing facilities.
- iii. No CPA money may be used for turf fields in the future.

c. Lower Fields (Bill). On budget and on time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes approved on Aug 28, 2012