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Finance Committee Meeting
February 26, 2013

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Members Present: Steve Noone, Doug Tindal, Mary Ann Ashton, Paulina Knibbe, Herman Kabakoff, Bob Evans, Pat Clifford, Mike Majors, Bill Mullin

Chair Tindal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

- I. Public Comment. None
- II. Minutes of February 12th, 2013
Bill Mullin moved to approve the minutes
Mary Ann Ashton seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
- III. FY14 School Budgets
 - a. Acton Public School Budget (Article 22 in the Draft Warrant)
Mike Majors moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the proposed APS FY14 budget in the amount of \$26,960,725. Steve Noone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Acton/Boxborough Regional School Budget (Article 23 in the Draft Warrant)
Mary Ann Ashton moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the proposed ABR FY14 Acton assessment of \$26,459,873, which reflects a total budget in the amount of \$40,482,330. Pat Clifford seconded. Motion passed unanimously
 - c. Minuteman Regional School Budget (Article 24 in the Draft Warrant)
Mary Ann Ashton moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the Minuteman Regional School FY14 assessment to the town of Acton in the amount of \$686,979. Herman Kabakoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. FY14 Municipal Budget
The total proposed municipal budget for FY14 is \$30,172,180
 - a. Operating Budget – \$28,472,335 (Article 13 in the Draft Warrant)
Steve Noone moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the FY14 Municipal operating budget in the amount of \$28,472,335. Pat Clifford Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. OPEB fund - \$432,000 (Article DA in the Draft Warrant)

Steve Noone moved to recommend that Town Meeting pass the OPEB funding in the amount of \$432,000. (Article DA). Mike Majors seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Subsidies - \$507,845 (Articles 3, 6, 8, 10, 11 in the Draft Warrant)

To be discussed at a future FinCom meeting.

- d. Capital Equipment, Vehicles and Infrastructure - \$405,000 (Article 14 in the Draft Warrant)

Mary Ann Ashton moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the FY14 Municipal Capital budget items listed in Article 14 in the Draft Warrant in the amount of \$405,000. Pat Clifford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- e. Studies and Development Plans - \$322,000 (Article 15 in the Draft Warrant)

Bill Mullin moved to defer the Finance Committee's recommendation to a later date so that Finance Committee members can continue to investigate these issues. Herman Kabakoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- f. Wood Lane Purchase - \$33,000 (Article 16 in the Draft Warrant)

Pat Clifford moved that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting pass the 81 Wood Lane Land Acquisition. Mary Ann Ashton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. School Regionalization

Bob Evans reported on the alternate regionalization plan proposed by the Boxborough members of the regionalization committee. This plan shifts more of the financial benefits to Acton.

- sharing of the financial benefits will be split 80/20 (Acton / Boxborough) for five years
- 'major capital' discount for Boxborough will remain for existing debt. New debt for K-12 will be split according to student ratio at the time it is incurred.
- school committee composition. Total of 11 members. 7 Acton / 4 Boxborough. Each Acton members will have 2.5 votes so that each committee member will represent the same number of citizens regardless of town.
- hometown guarantee will remain for five years. After that it can be overridden by a vote of the school committee

The regionalization subcommittee will meet again on March 6th.

The state funding to defray the cost of the regionalization discussion will expire on June 30th. The town meeting(s) to vote on this issue must be held before that date if we want to use that funding.

VI. ALG Update

The ALG will next meet on February 28th. All ALG participants agree on FY14 numbers.

The ALG is now talking about the out years and working toward consensus on the expense assumptions. The BoS and School Committee are developing assumptions on spending numbers in the out years.

VII. Warrant Article Assignment

Most of the Warrant Articles have been assigned to a FinCom member.

Bill Mullin will take the 81 Wood Lane land acquisition (Article 16 in the Draft Warrant).

Mike Majors will divide the zoning articles between himself, Herman Kabakoff and Paulina Knibbe.

VIII. Morrison Farm Update

Progress – endorsements from many different groups in Acton have been received.

Public Meeting / Open House on March 6th to allow public to see the plans and discuss the various components with the organizers.

Herman Kabakoff moved to adjourn the meeting.
Steve Noone seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm

Minutes approved on March 5, 2013