

Acton Finance Committee –Meeting Minutes
September 9 , 2014
Acton Town Hall, Room 204

Members Present: Steve Noone (Chair), Mike Majors (Vice-Chair), Margaret Woolley Busse (Clerk), Mary Ann Ashton, Bill Mullin, Herman Kabakoff, and Roland Bourdon (new member).

Members Absent: Bob Evans, Doug Tindal

Also attending: Town assistant finance director: Brian McMullen

Chairman Noone convened the meeting at 7:31pm

- I. **Public Participation** : None heard
- II. **Discussion of Acton Nursing Service** : First, Herman gave an update regarding the BoS's discussion re: the ANS the previous evening. Brian McMullen explained that because the ANS Enterprise Fund is losing \$5,000 a week (so deficit of \$250,000 a year), we need to have a special Town Meeting as soon as possible in order to decide whether to terminate the ANS. Several questions and comments from committee members. Bill recommended that the Town put the ANS in an "induced coma" where we stop the areas in the ANS that are bleeding cash. This can be done through an executive decision by the BoS instead of a special Town Meeting. Herman responded that this would be hard to implement. Margaret: This is a watershed moment for Acton –if it can't make a decision to stop the bleeding at ANS, what else will it not be able to make a decision about?
MOTION made by Herman Kabakoff to recommend option 5 of the ANS consultants' recommendations, and Steve seconded. Three (Steve, Herman, Mike) voted for it, three voted against it (Margaret, Mary Ann, Bill), and one abstained (Roland). **MOTION** made by Margaret to recommend option 4, Herman seconded it. Three voted for it (Margaret, Herman, Steve), three voted against it (Bill, Mary Ann, Mike), one abstained (Roland).
Discussion of Community Outreach : Margaret gave an update on her efforts to outreach to the community, particularly in reaching out to PTOs. Steve and Margaret volunteered to be at the McCarthy-Towne and high school PTO meetings; Bill and Margaret agreed to do the meeting at Conant on Oct. 22nd.
- III. **Update on Three Board Meeting** Steve said the meeting is set for October 28th and has compiled a draft agenda. Evening begins at 6:15 with dinner and 7pm starting meeting. Mary Ann gave an update on long range plan.
- IV. **Update on Global Cash Flow Project** Brian presented updated material on this topic, namely, the specifics of what comprises special revenue funds as well as what comprises current capital project funds. Committee members had various comments and questions
- V. **Finance Committee Business / Approval of Minutes** : Mary Ann suggested some minor amendments. **MOTION** made by Bill to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Mary Ann, minutes were approved as amended, all members voting for it except Roland Bourdon who abstained.
- VI. **Committee Membership** Roland Bourdon has replaced Pat Clifford as a Fincom member so some shuffling in committee liaison assignments; Roland will be covering CPC; Herman will be doing SATSAC. Also, as of right now, there are no provisions for associate members for the Finance Committee.

VII. Committee Reports Herman updated the committee on a vote taken by the BoS to transfer \$500K from the NESWC fund to free cash, but auditors said that not allowable but that the money can effectively be treated as free cash nonetheless. Mary Ann: School committee did vote to accept Town of Acton gift funds. Voted to approve a lease for six additional buses. Margaret reported on Acton 2020 and Kelly's Corner Improvement Initiative—encouraging members to attend the upcoming Kelley's Corner public workshop on September 16th. Acton 2020 off to a good, fresh reboot.

Documents used: Global Cash flow document entitled "Government Non-Major"; Questions from Fincom re: ANS consultant report; answers to those questions; Draft long range financial plan; Update on Fincom community outreach; Proposed agenda for three board meeting