

Minutes – Acton Finance Committee
September 22, 2009, 7:30p.m.
Room 204
Town Hall

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 7:30 p.m. on September 22, 2009 to review various matters.

Members present for the meeting: Herman Kabakoff, Chair, Mary Ann Ashton, Vice Chair, Bill Mullin, Clerk, Pat Clifford, Pat Easterly, Bob Evans, Steve Noone, Kent Sharp, Doug Tindal, Brandy Brandon, Associate Member. Karen Kucala, FinCom Staff Liaison was absent.

Chairman Herman Kabakoff called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

None.

Approval of Minutes

The minute of September 8, 2009 were approved, unanimously, with Mr. Mullin abstaining. (Note: Ms. Ashton informed the writer that all minutes have now been posted to the Town website.)

Detailed Review of Board of Selectmen Meetings of 9/14/09 and 9/21/09

Chairman Kabakoff reviewed in detail two recent BoS meetings. The critical finance matter to come out of those meetings revolved around the discussions to solve the budgetary shortfall that is predicted for the remainder of FY2010.

The latest numbers on the shortfall have changed due to an additional large tax payment. The rough numbers are as follows: \$600k shortfall is now reduced by a \$160k tax payment to result in a \$440k shortfall. Allocation of the shortfall to the operating entities results in a \$308k issue for the Schools and a \$132k issue for the Town. The solution is to reduce the ABRSD assessment by \$308k and for \$132k in overlay funds to be allocated as additional revenue to the Towns. While \$440k is not a trivial dollar amount, in the context of an \$80mm budget, it is being managed internally by the operating entity leadership. (The ABRSD has authority to lower budgets without a town meeting vote, while the municipality does not.)

After a series of questions trying to sort out the latest numbers, discussion ensued about the proposed solution. Mr. Noone expressed some frustration at the moving numbers. Ms. Clifford stated that we have already offered our Point of View about controlling expenditures in FY 2010. Mr. Mullin hemmed and hawed, but finally came around to the assertion that the plan as presented is being handled properly by the operating entities. Several members praised Town Manager Ledoux's proactive cost control measures. After a few more comments, Mr. Kabakoff summed up by saying that the consensus appeared to be that we have nothing further to say on the matter, to which Mr. Mullin suggested that we pose that position in the positive by saying that we believe that the matter is being handled properly. No vote was needed.

Committee Reports

Health Insurance Trust. Mr. Evans stated that the first draft statements are expected to be issued in October. The first 4 months of costs were approximately \$4.9mm. Further, he stated that the three members of the Trust believe that 10% is an appropriate cost factor for fy2011, although all believe that the number will not be higher.

Solar Panels. Mr. Tindal reported about the Solar Panel Task Group. He stated that he was very pleased with the quality of people working this issue for the Town, that they are true experts in their field. Recommendations have been made and are being reviewed and compiled.

Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Noone reported that the CPC created, issued, reviewed and approved the CPC plan for FY2011.

Other

Mr. Kabakoff circulated a sign up sheet for the Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting on October 24 in Franklin, MA.

Adjourned

Mr. Sharp moved to adjourn (seconded by Ms. Clifford) and the meeting was adjourned sometime around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by William C. Mullin, Clerk.