

Finance Committee Minutes

March 24, 2015 Town Hall Room 204

Members present Chairman Steve Noone, Vice Chair Mike Majors, Clerk, Margaret Woolley Busse, Roland Bourdon, Mary Ann Ashton, Bob Evans, Herman Kabakoff, Bill Mullin, Doug Tindal

Also present: Brian McMullen, Assistant Town Finance Director

Steve Noone called meeting to order at 7:30

- I. Public Participation: None heard
- II. Discussion of Transportation Enterprise Fund
 - a. Margaret spoke to this article—Transportation budget very high given how much service is used. There has been no growth in the three dial a ride services for the past four years, and we spend around \$30 each ride we give. Because there are no benchmarks set for this new fixed route shuttle, or for the current transportation systems we already have, Margaret proposed deferring a vote on this, and having the Fincom work with the BoS, to work out some sort of agreement on benchmarks, and then be able to vote on this in advance of Town Meeting.
 - b. Bob: Those that park at commuter rail are subsidizing the town, and the town is subsidizing the folks riding the rail shuttle
 - c. Mary Ann—Five year transportation plan—why doesn't it include the fixed route shuttle? Brian: we can get that for you
 - d. Doug: Need to develop formal benchmarks and developing a marketing plan
 - e. Bill: Shuttle plan has never had benchmarks—define what success is and what failure is
 - f. Herman: Agree that we should have benchmarks, particularly because we are adding another service. Cost per ride is too much
 - g. Mike: Definitely some issues. Need for benchmarks. Probably justify either dial a ride or fixed route shuttle but not both. Unless benchmarks put into place, these programs can go on forever, even when program no longer makes sense
 - h. Selectman Franny Osman: Have been looking into benchmarks for the last 2 years. Developed Dial a Ride to create equity so that everyone has access to door to door rides. All on board to figure out benchmarks.
 - i. Doug: We need to do some modeling of performance statistics and do benchmarks, but they will take time
 - j. Steve: Set up a subcommittee of Doug and Margaret to work with BoS to come up with benchmarks
 - k. Margaret: What is our tolerance level as a town for how much we want to pay for? This is what we can hammer out, don't have to rely on doing extensive research to come up with benchmarks
- III. Discussion of Ambulance Enterprise Fund
 - a. Bob: Reserves of the fund exceed what it takes to run the ambulance enterprise.

- b. Article 17 (Ambulance enterprise budget) Bob moved, Doug seconded to RECOMMEND.
MOTION passed unanimously
 - c. Bargaining agreements Article 10,11, 12 are not going to be in the warrant
 - d. Article 9 (Capital Infrastructure and Equipment) Herman recommend, Bill seconded to RECOMMEND. MOTION passed unanimously
 - e. Article 24 (Repurpose old article) Bill moved, Herman seconded to RECOMMEND.
MOTION passed unanimously
 - f. Article 25 (Repurpose old article) Bill moved, Herman seconded to RECOMMEND.
MOTION passed unanimously
- IV. Committee business
- a. Minutes from 3/3/2015 approved unanimously
 - b. Roland: CPC
 - c. Bob: Health Care Trust
 - d. Mary Ann: Morrison Farm Committee has started meeting again and will be working on parking improvements at Ice House Pond and historical surveys of the two foundations
 - e. Minuteman Building Committee: Gathering feedback from other towns
 - f. Herman: BoS extended Town Manager's contract and approved his salary; also discussed Trash initiative, and Transportation initiative
- V. Steve: Recognizes the work Mary Ann and Bill have done on behalf of the committee
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm