

Finance Committee Meeting

August 2, 2016 (Tuesday)

Ashland Town Hall

101 Main Street

Ashland, Massachusetts 01721

(Tel) 508-881-0100 (main phone number)

Finance Committee Members Present:

Dan Conroy (Chair)

Maribeth Morrissey (Vice-Chair)

Jack Walsh (Acting Secretary for this meeting)

Scott Warnetski

Adam Elbirt

Also Present:

Michael Herbert, Town Manager

Britanny Lacaponi, Finance Director

Dan Conroy (Chair) opened the Finance Committee meeting at 7:04pm. He explained that the first order of business was to address the Open Meeting Law Complaint (alleged violations).

Dan stated that since the election of officers for the Finance Committee was not on the agenda for the June 21st, 2016 Finance Committee meeting, and that the committee should re-vote for these positions.

Jack made the motion to nominate Dan Conroy for the position of Chair.

Scott seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Adam made the motion to nominate Maribeth for the position of Vice-Chair.

Dan seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Adam made the motion to nominate Ryan Turncliff (not present) for the position of Secretary

Dan seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Dan went through the “Draft” response to the Attorney General’s Office concerning the Open Meeting Law Complaint made by Stephen Morgan. The committee discussed the language in the response and made some minor changes to the draft. The Chair made a request to Jack, that the Memo, dated June 21st, 2016, concerning “The Reserve Fund Transfer Request”, from the Town Manager and Finance Director, be included with the minutes. Jack said he would make sure it was done.

Marybeth made the motion to approve the response, with discussed changes, to the Attorney General’s Office.

Adam seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

NOTE: A copy of the response will also be sent to: Stephen Morgan, and Mike Herbert, Town Manager.

The committee discussed the “Draft Minutes” from the Thursday, May 19th, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting. The committee added the address to the minutes, and stated that it was important that any documents given out at any meeting be given to the Town Clerk within ten (10) days after the meeting, even if the minutes haven’t been approved.

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes (as amended) of the May 19th, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting.

Adam seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

The committee discussed the “Draft Minutes” from the Tuesday, May 31st, 2016 Finance Committee meeting. The committee added the address to the minutes.

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes (as amended) of the May 31st, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting.

Adam seconded the motion.

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

The committee discussed the “Draft Minutes” from the Tuesday, June 21st, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting. Dan stated that “no” policy was adopted or voted on concerning the Public Comment period at the Finance Committee Meeting on June 21st, 2016. Dan stated that according to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, it’s up to the Chair of the committee to allow anyone to address the committee. A change in wording was requested (and made) under “Reserve Account Transfer Request”... A request for a transfer of funds... A correction to Selectman Joe Magnani (spelling) was made, as well as adding the address of the meeting location (101 Main Street). NOTE: The Memo “Reserve Fund Transfer Request” from the Town Manager and Finance Director will be filed with the “Draft Minutes” to the Town Clerk, Tara Ward.

Adam made a motion to approve the minutes (as amended) of the June 21st, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting

Dan seconded the motion

The vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Dan opened two letters: The first one was from the Attorney General's Office giving the committee until Friday, August 19th, 2016 to respond to the Open Meeting Law complaint. The second letter was from Keefe Technical High School stating our (projected) FY 2017 assessment was \$ 1,405,137.00, for the town of Ashland.

Dan then introduced the two potential candidates for the one open seat on the Finance Committee, John Moore, and Jacob Guggenheim. Both John and Jacob gave us a two minute introduction of themselves, and several finance committee members spoke of their particular view of the finance committee.

NOTE: The appointment to the finance committee is solely up to the elected Town Moderator.

Dan Conroy made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Maribeth Morrissey. The vote was 5-0 to adjourn, and adjourned at 7:36 PM.

NOTE: There was no executive session.

Enclosures (7): Letter from Attorney General's Office, dated July 29, 2016

Letter from Keefe Technical High School, dated June 1, 2016

"Draft" response to alleged Open Meeting Law violations to Attorney General's Office

"Draft" Finance Committee Minutes from Thursday, May 19, 2016 meeting

"Draft" Finance Committee Minutes from Tuesday, May 31, 2016 meeting

"Draft" Finance Committee Minutes from Tuesday, June 21, 2016 meeting

Memo, Reserve Fund Transfer Request, dated June 21, 2016