**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 23, 2015, 6:30 PM**

**Lower Conference Room**

**Members Present:** John Heffernan (Chair), William Podolski, Maureen Hanlon, Steve Bilafer, Sue Carney, Dave Roberts, Kevin Hughes and Liz O’Donnell.

**Members Absent:** Russell Stamm

Mr. Heffernan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Bilafer made a motion to reconsider the votes previously taken on Article 3, 17 and 18 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 8-0.**

Article 3:

Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the following sums of money be raised and appropriated or transferred from available funds, all as detailed in the budget for the specific purposes hereinafter designated, to be expended only for those purposes under the direction of the respective boards, committees or officers of the Town, and that for budgetary purposes, all weekly/bi-weekly salaries are based upon a 52.4 week year.”*. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 8-0.**

Article 17:

Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That the following sums listed under the heading “Revenues” be raised or transferred from available funds to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY2016, and, further, to approve the FY2016 budget for the Sewer Enterprise, including amounts appropriated under Article 4 and included herein for reference only, all as set forth in the chart below:”*. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 8-0.**

Article 18:

Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the following sums listed under the heading “Revenues” be raised from Endicott Estate Receipts and related revenues to operate the Endicott Estate Enterprise Fund for FY2016, and further, to approve the FY2016 budget for the Endicott Estate Enterprise, including the amount provided as a budgeted subsidy from the tax levy as appropriated under Article 3 and included herein for reference only, all as set forth in the chart below:”.* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 8-0.**

Mr. Hughes asked if they are heading in the right direction when you compare last year and this year.

Mr. Kern responded that they are heading in the right direction, and the amount of money being raised by the Endicott has been raised steadily. Mr. Kern added that he thinks they are nearing the plateau, and they are not going to close the gap all of the way.

Mr. Heffernan added that they are also heading in the right direction in that they now better understand the costs.

Ms. Hanlon commented that it is unlikely that the Endicott Estate will ever be run with a plus factor.

Mr. Heffernan agreed with Ms. Hanlon that under the current way they are operating, she is correct. Things would need to change for that to happen.

Ms. Hanlon added that they may need to look at this again, as when it was originally brought this forward it was costing the Town about a half million dollars to subsidize it, and they knew they had big problems if that were to continue, but she still has concerns about what it is costing the Town to operate the Endicott Estate.

Mr. Podolski stated that the Endicott Estate is a sacred cow and he’s for it.

Ms. Carney commented that the Endicott Estate is a jewel, and she would like it to remain in the Town. She is disappointed that the sign out front does not have the Town seal. She explained how at one point they thought it could sustain itself and then a couple years ago they realized that realistically it may never sustain itself, but if they could mitigate the expense through the use of the facility it would be well worth it. Now it is costing almost 600,000, the salaries alone are a little over $200,000 and when you add other benefits to employees and retirees it is almost $300,000. She added that she had a 50th reunion last fall that they were interested in having at the Endicott Estate and a friend looked into using the Estate, but the fees were too high. She wondered when they get to the point when they are out-pricing some groups who are interested in holding events at the property.

Mr. Bilafer asked if the house that the town rents on the property is included in the revenue. Mr. Heffernan confirmed that it is not included.

Ms. Carney made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 PM, seconded by Mr. Roberts. **It was voted 8-0.**