**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 9, 2015, 6:30 PM**

**Lower Conference Room**

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

**Members Absent:** Russell Stamm and William Podolski.

Mr. Heffernan called meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bilafer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2015, seconded by Ms. Carney. **It was voted 6-0** (Ms. Hanlon abstained)

Ms. Hanlon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 7, 2015, seconded by Mr. Bilafer. **It was voted 7-0.**

Ms. Hanlon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2015, seconded by Ms. Carney. **It was voted 7-0.**

Mr. Heffernan explained that this has been a challenging budget season. There are a lot of positions that have not been filled and it has been a challenge getting though, but it has been great because of a few people. He recognized Carol Coppola for a tremendous job filling in for the Finance Director role. He recognized Susan Shaw and Bill Ralph for a phenomenal job jumping in and taking on additional work to assisting the Committee. Mr. Heffernan also recognized the new Town Manager, Jim Kern, for getting involved and up to speed very quickly. He explained that he was especially thankful for Nancy Baker’s assistance as she has been the running point throughout the process on many things. Mr. Heffernan explained that last, but not least, he wanted to thank Lisa Bazinet for being a tremendous help to him throughout the process.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to close the public hearings, seconded by Mr. Hughes. **It was voted 7-0 by roll call vote.**

Deliberations and Voting

Mr. Heffernan explained that he will be taking the articles in order for voting.

Article One: No Action Required

Article Two: No Action Required

Article Three: Mr. Bilafer read 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 52.2 week year.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Four: Mr. Bilafer read the following motion: *“That the Town appropriate $505,000 to pay the costs of design services as indicated in Item 1 in the chart entitled “FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan” under Article 4, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(22) of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.*

*That $1,600,000 be raised through Sewer Enterprise Fund revenues to fund Items 2 and 10.*

*That the Town appropriate $200,000 to pay the costs of resurfacing the DHS parking lot and ADA compliance to lower entrances, including all incidental and related costs, as indicated in Item 3 in the chart entitled “FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan” under Article 4, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.*

*That the Town appropriate the total amount $473,130 from Free Cash to pay the costs of Item 4 (DHS NSTAR PCB Transformer removal/padmount; $150,000), Item 5 (Asbestos Abatement Program for Floor Tiles in Schools; $150,000) and Item 6 (Rescue Equipment; $173,130), including all incidental and related costs, in the chart entitled “FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan” under Article 4.*

*That the Town appropriate the total amount of $2,550,000 to pay the costs of roadway improvements ($1,500,000), sidewalk and miscellaneous repairs ($500,000), purchasing and equipping various motor vehicles and heavy equipment ($568,692) all as indicated in Items 7, 8, 9, and 11 in the chart entitled “FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan” under Article 4, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 and 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.*

*That the Town appropriate $550,000 to pay the costs of constructing the Gateway to the Manor Project, including all incidental and related costs, as indicated in Item 12 in the chart entitled “FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan” under Article 4, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 and 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.”*

The motion for Article Four was seconded by Ms. Hanlon.

Discussion- Mr. Heffernan explained that the Committee is voting on the Town Manager’s recommendation for Article Four, which unlike the Capital Committee’s recommendations, includes the approval of the Gateway to the Manor project.

**The motion for Article Four was voted 4-3.** (Ms. Hanlon, Ms. Carney and Mr. Heffernan were opposed)

Article Five: Mr. Bilafer read the following motion: “*That the salaries of elected officials be fixed as follows for Fiscal Year 2016, provided however, under the revised Charter approved by the voters at the April 12, 2014 Annual Town Election, only elected incumbents holding office as of the date of that election, with the exception of the Town Clerk, may receive the compensation set forth below:*

*Board of Selectmen, Chair $818*

*Board of Health, One Member $350*

*Board of Assessors, One Member $2,300*

*Town Clerk\* $91,504*

 *\*includes Certification Stipend and Deferred Compensation”*

The motion for Article Five was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Six: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Seven: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Eight: Mr. Bilafer read the following motion: *“That the following sums of money, totaling $2,049,100 be transferred from current appropriations as scheduled on the following chart to meet additional expenses for the current fiscal year.”* seconded by Ms. Hanlon.

Discussion- Mr. Hughes expressed concern about the Police wanting to use leftover money for something else. Ms. Baker explained that changing the purpose of funds within the same line item does not require permission; the Chief was just letting the FinCom know.

**The motion for** **Article Eight was voted 7-0.**

Article Nine: Mr. Bilafer read the following motion: “*That the sum of $250,000 be raised and appropriated to the General Stabilization Fund.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Ten: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Eleven: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That $215,190, an amount equal to the amount collected from the local meals excise (2nd quarter FY’15), be raised and appropriated, that $214,241, an amount equal to the amount collected from the room occupancy tax receipts (2nd quarter FY’15), be raised and appropriated, that $214,396, an amount equal to the amount collected from the local meals excise (3rd quarter FY’15), be raised and appropriated, and that $122,703, an amount equal to the amount collected from the room occupancy tax receipts (3rd quarter FY’15), be raised and appropriated, and that such amounts be deposited into the Robin Reyes Major Capital Facilities Stabilization Fund, created under Articles 6 and 7 of the November 16, 2009 Special Town Meeting.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twelve: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the sum of $345,020 be appropriated from the Robin Reyes Major Capital Facilities Stabilization Fund for the purpose of paying debt service associated with the purchase of the Ames property.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirteen: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Fourteen: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Fifteen: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the Town authorize the use of revolving funds pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 §53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 to be credited with receipts from the designated revenue sources, to be expended under the authority and direction of the designated agencies or officials for the stated purposes, not to exceed the spending limits respectively as presented in the chart set forth in the warrant under Article 15.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Sixteen: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the sum of $125,000 be raised and appropriated for the Board of Assessors certification of all Real and Personal Property values located within the Town of Dedham as required by Massachusetts General Laws.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0**

Article Seventeen: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That the following sums be appropriated to the Sewer Enterprise Fund:*” This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Eighteen: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That the following sums be appropriated to the Endicott Estate Enterprise Fund:”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Nineteen: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That the sum of $25,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of paying the costs associated with tax takings.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty: Mr. Bilafer made the motion “*that it be so voted”,* seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 6-1.** (Ms. Hanlon was opposed)

Article Twenty-One: Mr. Bilafer made the motion *“that it be so voted”,* seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Two: Mr. Bilafer made the motion *“that it be so voted”*, seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Three: Mr. Bilafer made the motion *“that it be so voted”*, seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Four: - Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That it be voted consistent with the recommendation of the Planning Board.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Five: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That it be voted consistent with the recommendation of the Planning Board.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Six: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That it be voted consistent with the recommendation of the Planning Board.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Seven: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That it be voted consistent with the recommendation of the Planning Board.”* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty-Eight: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be so voted”,* seconded byMs. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Twenty- Nine: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be so voted”,* seconded byMs. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-One: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Two: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Three: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That it be so voted with the*

*following changes:Section 237-22; delete the letter “a” after the word “replacing” in the second sentence of this section. Table 2 – Sign Dimensions and Location; Replace the words “10 ft.” with the words “25 ft.” in the sections of the table identified as Highway Business, Limited Manufacturing A&B, and Research, Development & Office.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon.**It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Four: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be so voted”,* seconded byMs. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Five: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: “*That the Town vote in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.32B, §20(b), to authorize the Town to invest all or a portion of its Other Post Employment Benefits Fund (OPEB Fund), which fund was created under Article 19 of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting by the Town’s acceptance of said section 20, with the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund, the state Pension Reserves Investment Trust, or such other state trust or fund in which municipal OPEB funds may be pooled with other public funds similar in nature and invested, or that monies in the Town’s OPEB Fund be invested in whole or in part in any other manner permitted by said section G.L. c.32B, §20(b), and further, to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager, to negotiate an investment agreement or agreements for such purposes and execute the same on such terms and conditions as the identified Town officials deem acceptable, and to take such other action including but not limited to the withdrawal and transfer of monies in the OPEB Fund and the execution of any and all instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of the vote taken hereunder.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Six: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That it be so voted, with the provision that such act should be effective in the Town beginning July 1, 2016, or such later time as it is approved by the General Court.”* This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty-Seven: Mr. Bilafer made the following motion: *“That it be so voted with the following language change (shown here in bold): One (1) member of the Board of Selectmen or designee; Two (2) members of the School Committee or designees; One (1) member of the Finance & Warrant Committee or designee; One (1) member of the Capital Expenditure Committee or designee; Superintendent of Schools or designee; Principal of affected school or designee; Town Manager or designee; and Three (3) members at large, appointed by the Moderator, for* ***initial*** *terms of one, two and three years,* ***and thereafter for terms of three years”*** This motion was seconded by Ms. Hanlon.

Discussion- Ms. Hanlon explained her concern about a situation where a designee was neither an employee of taxpayer and that this article would not address this issue.

Mr. Bilafer explained that he is opposed to this article because he believes it should specify that one of the at large members should be a parent.

Mr. Heffernan commented that making these changes would go outside the scope of the article.

Ms. Carney explained the possibility of serving on the Committees but not having a vote. This would allow the Principle and Superintendent to advise from an education standpoint, but not to vote. She believes the final say should always be with the residents of the Town.

Mr. Roberts commented about the possibility of going back to the Bylaw review committee to have them consider a stipulation that all voting members should be residents.

Mr. Bilafer withdrew his motion, and Ms. Hanlon withdrew her second.

Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“That a recommendation be made at Town Meeting”.* This was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Article Thirty- Eight: Mr. Bilafer made a motion *“that it be indefinitely postponed”;* this was seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**

Mr. Roberts made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, seconded by Ms. Hanlon. **It was voted 7-0.**