

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2016 7:00 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING**



MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Kane, Cyndi Leroy, Robert Guenther, Christian Orobello, Dr. Maureen Ward, James Robichaud and Tonya Dokulil

CALL TO ORDER: 7:11 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2016: Chairman Kane said there has been some last minute tweaking to the Town Meeting warrant. He asked if people are requesting warrant articles they come forward and speak on them.

ARTICLE 1-Chairman Kane said this is where the Finance Committee reports to the town.

ARTICLE 2-Town Charter Article-Chairman Kane said this is revisions of the Town Charter. It is to clean up some language and there are also some substantial changes. Mr. Robert O'Keefe and Mr. Rick Ward came forward. Mr. O'Keefe said the Charter Committee is limited to minor changes only. He read the article and proceeded to go over the substantial revisions.

Mr. O'Keefe said one of the changes is to allow the Town Manager to sign the warrant. In the past there has been an issue getting enough Selectmen to sign the warrant. The Board of Selectmen can decide when they want to use this feature. The Charter Committee is holding another Public Hearing on November 1st

ARTICLE 3 AND 4-Mr. Hickey came forward. He said both are in relation to the Commonwealth of Mass replacing Royalston Road North Bridge. Article 3 is to accept the first modification of the layout of the road. Article 4 is for temporary easements.

ARTICLE 5-Acceptance of a portion of Toy Town Lane-Mr. Hickey said this has been constructed to the town's specifications. The Planning Board has reviewed it and supports it.

ARTICLE 6- Payment of Bills of a Prior Fiscal Year-The Superintendent of Schools and the School Accountant came forward. The Superintendent said these are for prior years bills. He said they would like to start off with a clean slate. We don't have the money in our budget to pay these and we are asking the town to help us out.

ARTICLE 7- FY17 Budget Article-Mr. Hickey said this is making some modifications to some items in the general fund. The impact of these is zero dollars. No additional funds are being requested. He said the debt service is the only adjustment that is needed. He said the Town

Accountant recommends considering rewording how the article for indirect costs are written. This is to make sure the town is protected.

ARTICLE 8 & 9-Mr. Hickey said this article and the next one are modifications to articles made in May. We are trying to correct the language originally voted at the Town Meeting in May. There is no impact. Jim Robichaud asked about collections. Mr. Hickey said the board adopted water shut off policy. The water bills were due in September and if not paid they are 50 days overdue. Beginning on November 15th we will start shutting off water. He said we don't want to shut anyone's water off they can make payment arrangements with the Tax Collector.

Mr. Hickey said Article 9 is needed so we can use free cash.

ARTICLE 10-Library Accessibility Project-Mr. Ron Muse and the Library Director came forward. Mr. Muse explained the bid went up \$260,000 more than the town passed. They put in all of the Library trust funds to make up some of the difference. He said we found out the bid for metals was \$120,000 more which doesn't include installation. Dr. Maureen Ward asked how much has been spent on this project. Ms. Jane Lapointe came forward and said just under \$100,000. She said when the project was originally bid if we started we would have been fine but since we had to wait two years the costs went up. The contractor that bid is holding the bid until the day after the Town Meeting. Mr. Hickey said the majority of the Board of Selectmen wants to use stabilization and then put it back when free cash is certified.

ARTICLE 11-Ms. Jane Morrisson came forward. She said the warrant article asks that land owned by the Board of Selectmen be transferred to the Conservation Commission. The fees would be paid by the town and then be refunded by a landscape partnership grant.

Chairman Kane said we will take a five minute break and then reconvene to vote on the warrant articles.

DETERMINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES-

A motion was made by Christian Orobello to recommend article 1; Dr. Maureen Ward seconded.

KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to recommend article 2; Christian Orobello seconded.

KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(N) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 3; James Robichaud seconded.

KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 4; James Robichaud seconded.

KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 5; Tonya Dokulil seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 6; Christian Orobello seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(A) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 7; Dr. Maureen Ward seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(N) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to recommend article 8; Robert Guenther seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(N) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to recommend article 9; Cyndi Leroy seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(N) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(N) DOKULIL(N)

A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to recommend article 10; James Robichaud seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(N) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to recommend article 11; James Robichaud seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

A motion was made by Robert Guenther to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Maureen Ward seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) GUENTHER(Y) LEROY(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)

The Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Dennis
Finance Committee Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved _____