

Finance Committee Minutes
May 11, 2009

Location: Amherst Regional Middle School Band Room

Attendance: Marilyn Blaustein, Kay Moran, Brian Morton, (Chair), Bob Saul, Douglas Slaughter, Andrew Steinberg

Others present: John Musante (Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director)

Agenda:

1. Consideration and Recommendations for Article 13 Gas Tax
2. Next Meeting and Agenda
3. Miscellaneous

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Actions:

1. Moran moved that the Finance Committee postpone consideration of Article 13 until after Article 20. VOTED 6-0, 1 absent.

Discussion:

1. Article 13. Morton noted that the Petitioner for Article 13, Mr. O'Connor, had not yet presented the motion. He said that the moderator would not allow the motion to be entertained that evening because he wanted Town Meeting to have at least two nights to review. The earliest date would be June 15. There was discussion as to whether the FC should take a position on this motion. Morton said that if a gas tax were approved, that Chapter 90 funds and public transportation monies could be generated that would come back to the town. The FC agreed that all efforts should be directed to budget issues when Town Meeting reconvenes on June 15, and this article should be at the end of the warrant—after Article 20..
2. Next meeting and agenda. Morton questioned whether it made sense to meet on May 13 given that the next session of Town Meeting and consideration of the budget was postponed until June 15. Better information on the Senate budget would be available at that time. Musante responded that it would be helpful to meet to get updates on budget issues and to continue the discussion about use of reserves. The committee agreed to meet on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 if there was no Town Meeting scheduled. If not, the meeting would be on May 13.
3. Miscellaneous. Moran informed the committee that the Library trustees planned to vote on their budget on May 12 and would probably not be meeting again until June. It was also mentioned that the schools needed to be informed about the delay in consideration of the budget.

The committee discussed the plan for Town Meeting to vote on each CPA expenditure separately that evening, and agreed that the committee's single vote on the article would remain. There was not sufficient time to review each item before Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Blaustein

Acting Clerk