

**Amherst Finance Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**  
**Band Room, Middle School**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kay Moran (Chair), Marylou Theilman (Vice Chair), Steve Braun, Bernie Kubiak, Janice Ratner, Anurag Sharma, Douglas Slaughter.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**  
Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Amherst Media

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:32 PM.

1. Discussion of November 5th Special Town Meeting warrant articles.  
Slaughter moves to recommend referral of Article 5 (affordable housing requirements) to Planning Board, Braun seconded. Braun favors voting down the article, given the construction of the article and the reports from town counsel and the consultant. Slaughter – referral puts the matter back in Planning Board court, aligns with their request. Theilman suggests we take no position, let Town Meeting decide. Ratner suggests referral or no recommendation, Sharma concurs. Slaughter believes because it's more restrictive, it will inhibit development, including affordable housing, doesn't get to the broader issues raised in the consultant reports, need to be careful. Theilman would still vote to make no recommendation. Theilman sees it as a far more complicated issue than article 5 encompasses, also possibility of litigation (may be considered a taking).  
Call for vote on motion to refer the article to the Planning Board: 4 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carries.

If the motion to refer fails and an up/down vote occurs: Kubiak moves to recommend against, Slaughter seconds. Sharma thinks the Planning Department does a good job of working with developers, questions whether expecting developers to build affordable housing would deter development. Kubiak argues that consultant cautions about making developers bear the entire cost and there are intervening opportunities to build housing.  
Vote to not recommend the article if the motion to refer fails: 4 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion carries. The opposed and the abstention preferred that the Finance Committee take no position on Article #5

Article 6 (Use and testing of fluoride in drinking water): Braun briefed the committee on the article, has revised what he originally wrote based on last-minute changes to the motion by the petitioner, will focus on financial aspects. Will have a limited discussion on the financial impacts of not fluoridating.  
Theilman move to recommend against article 6, seconded by Braun. Vote 7 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carries

2. News affecting budget  
Pooler notes that the budget is on track for first quarter, not much to report at this time.

3. Member reports – liaisons, committees

No reports

4. Minutes of previous meetings

None submitted

5. Next meeting and agenda

No meeting scheduled at this point, likely in December, or else when the Town Manager presents his budget on 1/16/15; the four-town meeting will be held on 11/22/14.

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting.

None.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Kubiak

Approval voted 01/22/2015