

Approved: 06/29/2016

Amherst Finance Committee Minutes
May 9, 2016
Professional Development Room
Amherst-Pelham Middle School

ATTENDANCE: Kay Moran (Chair), Steve Braun, Bernie Kubiak, Janice Ratner, Marylou Theilman, Tim Neale. Absent: Anurag Sharma

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller; ACTV

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

1. News affecting the budget
No new developments.

2. Article 24, Free Cash

The Chair proposed the following motion to balance the budget: "I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund the sum of \$30,000 to balance the FY 17 Fiscal Year Budget." Kubiak moved the Chair's suggested motion to town meeting, seconded by Ratner. Discussion ensued about on how else the \$30,000 short fall might be funded other than a free cash transfer. No alternative was identified. Motion carries: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

3. Article 26, Percent for Art

Motion has been modified by the petitioners, reduced to 0.5%, eliminated enterprise funds, other changes. Braun asks to reconsider the vote, notes that a vote on the article represents a need, and sees the article as a positive value judgement. Neale disagrees, noting that he would like choose to spend funds on other things. He believes that art can be funded in other ways.

Ratner notes that people are being asked to raise taxes, there will likely be fees for storm water abatement, those are things to consider. Theilman notes a 3% increase on the CPA, concern that our town will be a town of rich, poor, and no one in the middle. For the person in the middle, it's a squeeze, would like to see a better proposal for funding. Neale asks that a concern over administrative time be part of the presentation to town meeting. Moran believes that art projects could be incorporated into the capital planning process.

Theilman moves reconsideration, Braun seconds. Motion carries 6-0-1 absent

Braun moves that the fin com not recommend the article, Neale seconds, motion carries 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 absent.

4. Minutes of previous meetings

Ratner moves to accept minutes of April 21, Braun seconds. Vote: 4 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

5. Next meetings and agenda

Theilman would like to have one more meeting with Moran present to discuss the major projects, at the end of May. Braun suggests we invite Moran to the scheduled July meeting. Theilman prefers to meet prior to that, notes that planning needs to be pulled together, perhaps include the Select Board. Neale would prefer a June meeting, with an opportunity to discuss the interactive spreadsheet created by Sandy Pooler. Braun will conduct a Doodle poll, consult with Aldrich, to find a time.

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated by chair 48 hours in advance of meeting.
None.

Theilman moves adjournment, seconded by Braun. Motion carries 6-0-1 absent.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Kubiak, Clerk Pro Tem