

Approved 10/5/2017

**Amherst Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2017
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Attendance: Joseph Jayne, Bernie Kubiak, Tim Neale, Sharon Povinelli, Janice Ratner, Anurag Sharma, Marylou Theilman (Chair).

Others in Attendance: Sonia Aldrich (Co-Finance Director)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Review of the Warrant Articles:

Articles & Assignments for Town Meeting.

#1- *Reports of Boards & Committees:* **Theilman.**

#2- *Free Cash to Stabilization:* (Approved by Finance Committee: 6 – 0. One absent.): **Theilman.**

#3- *Public Shade Tree Regulation:* FC needs to see more information prior to vote: **Povinelli.**

#4- *Town Meeting Advisory Committee:* Bernie and Janice felt there was overlap with the FC in this committee role. - **Sharma**

#5- *Regional School District Planning Committee:* **Theilman.**

#6- *Resolution Regarding Expansion of the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School:* **Theilman.**

#7- *General Bylaw – Local Option Sales Tax up to 3% on Marijuana:* **Kubiak**

#8- *General Bylaw – Prohibition on Public Consumption of Marijuana:* **Kubiak**

#9- *General and Zoning Bylaw – Limitation on Number of Recreational Marijuana Establishments:* **Kubiak**

#10- *Zoning Bylaw – Retail Marijuana Retailer (Planning Board):* **Ratner**

#11- *Zoning Bylaw – Temporary Moratorium Retail Marijuana Establishments (Planning Board):* **Ratner**

#12- *Zoning Bylaw – Table 3 Footnotes:* **Povinelli**

#13- *Zoning Bylaw – Commercial Parking Facility:* **Jayne**

#14- *General Petition – Resolution in Support of 100% Renewable Energy:* **Neale**

#15- *General Petition – Net Zero Energy Town Buildings:* **Neale**

#16- *General petition – Non-Binding Resolution for End of Life Options Act -* **FC will not consider Article.**

#17- *General Petition – Design for Improvements of the North Amherst Library:* **Sharma**

Next Meetings:

The next Finance Committee meeting is October 5. The Four Board Meeting is on October 12 @5:00p.m. The Finance Committee will meet following that meeting and will discuss and vote on warrant articles. The Finance Committee will need to have all materials for Town Meeting completed by October 17.

Review of Finance Committee Statement for Fall Report:

Finance Committee Report and Recommendations for the Nov 6, 2017 Special Town Meeting.

After thorough analysis, the Finance Committee suggested edits to the second paragraph on page one and the second paragraph on page two of the statement.

Theilman suggested we include the June budget report under “additional information” in the statement.

Committee and Liaison Reports:

DPW/FIRE: Jayne discussed the recent Open House at the DPW. There is an upcoming open house for the Fire Station on October 17th.

Library – No update

School Committee – Theilman discussed that the committee is continuing to work on the assessment method, regionalization with Pelham and the Amherst School Committee Charter School Resolution.

Other - All are encouraged to attend the Association of Town Finance Committees Saturday Oct 21.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Minutes of September 7, 2017 were approved: 6 - 0 with 1 abstaining.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of Meeting: Neale led a discussion concerning lowering the guideline for FY19 operating expense increases for the Town, school, and library budgets from 2.5 % to 2%, so as to help mitigate the rise in property taxes. No formal vote was conducted; rather, discussion will continue at future meetings.

The Meeting adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Joseph K. Jayne, acting clerk