

Minutes of the

Weare Finance Committee

Wednesday, 22 January 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

In attendance were (from right to left as seen by the audience): Neal Kurk, Christine Hague, Megan Thellen, Matt Whitlock (secretary), Nicole Herbst, Gary Evans, Tammi Hagman, Tom Clow, Lori Davis (chair), James Drury, Tom Downing, Dennis Aubin, Keith Erf. No members were absent.

Tom Clow moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with amendments. Nicole seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Keith Lacasse of Ridgeview Road presented the petitioned warrant article by the Weare Athletic Club to raise and appropriate funds to contract a civil engineer for the purpose of having design and build documents produced for development of athletic fields at Ineson Field at Quaker Street and Route 114. Naomi provided background on last year's proposal to study the site along with the former Alma Shmid property.

Dennis Aubin presented the petitioned warrant article to cap annual contributions to the Fire Department Special Revenue Fund. Fire chief Bob Vezina reviewed a history of the fund and offered his viewpoint on the proposal.

Officers Frisbie and Maguire, representing the police bargaining unit, presented proposed changes to the police union contract. The uniform allowance would be changed to a reimbursement, and vacation accrual switched to a monthly basis. Salaries would be increased by 6.39% in the first year and 3% in each of the second and third years. Tom Clow, who observed the police union negotiations, pointed out that the proposed contract would modify the yearly pay scale steps from 3.5% to 3%. Officer Frisbie clarified that officers would not be stepping up on the pay scale during the duration of the contract.

Brenda Cannon, chair of the library trustees, notified the committee of a clarification to the wording of the warrant article proposing to convert a part-time library employee to full-time and discussed the intent of the article in general.

Naomi shared that the Selectmen had split the article proposing two new police cruisers into two articles to clarify that the vehicles differ in purpose. Police chief Chris Moore fielded questions from the committee regarding the proposed purposes of the two vehicles and read aloud the proposed wording of the newly split articles.

Tom Downing moved to table the discussion of Article 11, the police cruisers, until the next meeting, pending approval of the new wording by the Selectmen. Dennis seconded. The motion passed.

Naomi shared that the Selectmen had moved the \$8000 raise for the DPW director and its associated costs from the non-union raises article into the proposed operating budget so that the separate article includes only the usual 3% raises across the board.

Lori moved to table the discussion of Article 4, the proposed operating budget, until the next meeting, pending adjustments and finalization by the Selectmen. The motion passed.

Neal moved to recommend Article 5, the police bargaining agreement. Keith seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 6, raises for non-union town and library personnel. Neal seconded. The motion passed, 11-1, with Megan abstaining.

Dennis moved to recommend Article 7, an additional DPW employee. Gary seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 8, two additional full-time firefighter/EMTs. Tammi seconded. The motion passed 10-3.

Lori requested that Naomi check whether the RSA allows the library to move money around within their budget without voter approval.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 9, full-time library employee. Gary seconded. The motion passed, 9-4.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 10, fire department fitness equipment. Lori seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Keith moved to recommend Article 12, ten-wheel plow truck. Tow Downing seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Keith moved to recommend Article 13, medium-duty dump truck. Tom Downing seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 14, bridge reconstruction. Neal seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Keith moved to recommend Article 15, road reconstruction. Lori seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Lori moved to recommend Article 16, emergency services radio communications. Tom Clow seconded. The motion passed, 11-2.

Gary moved to recommend Article 17, air conditioning units on government buildings. Tom Clow seconded. The motion passed, 7-6.

Neal moved to recommend Article 18, town hall repairs. James seconded. The motion failed, 2-11. Neal moved to recommend against Article 18. The motion passed, 11-2.

There was a brief discussion informing new committee members of the committee's standard operating procedure of reconsidering any articles that were amended at Deliberative Session, prior to preparation of the mailer.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 19, cemetery cy pres. Neal seconded. The motion passed, 12-0, with one member not present.

Tom Clow moved to recommend Article 20, patriotic celebration. Lori seconded. The motion failed, 5-8. Neal moved to recommend against Article 20. Matt seconded. The motion passed, 8-5.

Neal moved to recommend Article 21, town forest management. Tom seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

Neal moved to recommend Article 22, town forest purchase. Gary seconded. The motion passed, 12-1.

Tom Clow moved to allow article petitioners to vote on committee recommendations. The motion passed.

Keith moved to recommend Article 23, Fire Department Special Revenue Fund cap. Neal seconded. The motion failed, 1-10, with Dennis recusing himself and Gary abstaining. Lori moved to recommend against Article 23. Matt seconded. The motion passed, 10-1, with Dennis recusing himself and Gary abstaining.

Megan moved to recommend Article 24, Ineson Field planning. Tom Downing seconded. The motion failed, 6-7. Neal moved to recommend against Article 24. Lori seconded. The motion passed, 7-6.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, at 6:30pm, to discuss the school warrants and articles.

Lori adjourned the meeting at 11:43pm.