

**Topsfield Finance Committee  
Minutes to the Meetings  
March 24, 2010**

I. **Call to Order:** Mark Lyons, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Heidi Bond, Paul Dierze, Steve Lais, Holger Luther, and Trudi Perry present. Martha Morrison, Chair of the Board of Selectmen and Selectmen Richard Gandt, Karen Dow, Nancy Luther, and Laura Powers, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Town Moderator John Kinhan were also present. Masconomet School Committee Member Ken Vogel and Elementary School Committee Member Jeanine Cunniff also attended the meeting.

II. **Minutes:** A motion was made by Holger Luther to accept the 03/22/10 minutes as drafted, seconded by Heidi Bond, voted in favor 5-0-1 with Steve Lais abstaining. A motion was made by Holger Luther to accept the 03/24/10 minutes as drafted, seconded by Trudi Perry, voted in favor 4-0-2 with Heidi Bond and Steve Lais abstaining.

III. **Annual Finance Committee Letter:** The Annual Finance Committee Letter will be written by Holger Luther and Mark Lyons.

IV. **Reconsideration of Specific Department Budgets:** Town Administrator Virginia Wilder presented the Committee with an updated Attachment A and explained the changes that had been made. A motion was made by Holger Luther, that supersedes any prior motion, to approve Attachment A to the Town Warrant version 11 dated March 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Steve Lais and voted in favor 6-0.

V. **Warrant Article Recommendations:** In a series of motions, the Finance Committee voted actions on the following Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles as numbered in the attached draft warrant version 11, 03-31-2010:

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Paul Dierze, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Reserve Fund, Article Second, voted in favor 6-0.

A motion was made by Holger Luther, seconded by Paul Dierze, to delete from the Committee's recommendation on General Operating Budget, Article Third the statement "transfer the sum of \$0 from the Conservation Revolving Fund; transfer the sum \$0 from the Cemetery Revolving Fund", voted in favor 6-0. By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Paul Dierze, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on General Operating Budget, Article Third, as amended voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Steve Lais, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Water Department Operating Budget, Article Fourth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Heidi Bond, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Masconomet Regional School District Assessment, Article Fifth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Steve Lais, the Finance Committee

recommends positive action on North Shore Vocational School District Assessment, Article Sixth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Paul Dierze, seconded by Holger Luther, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Purchase of Highway Dump/Sander/Wing/Plow Truck by a Lease Agreement, Article Eighteenth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Trudi Perry, seconded by Holger Luther, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District, Article Twenty-Fifth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Heidi Bond, seconded by Paul Dierze, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Non-Criminal Disposition-Board of Health, Article Twenty-Seventh, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Steve Lais, seconded by Holger Luther, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Tri-Town Council on Youth and Family Services, Article Thirty-Third, voted in favor 6-0.

A motion was made by Steve Lais, seconded by Holger Luther, to rescind votes on Articles Thirty-Fourth and above in the March 24<sup>th</sup> version of the Warrant, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Steve Lais, seconded by Holger Luther, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Contract for Triennial Re-Certification for Commercial and Industrial Real Estate, Article Thirty-Fourth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Steve Lais, seconded by Holger Luther, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Contract for Triennial Re-Certification for Personal Property, Article Thirty-Fifth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Paul Dierze, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Police Liability Reduction Training, Article Thirty-Sixth, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Steve Lais, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Use of Town Facilities for Solar Energy Projects, Article Thirty-Seventh, voted in favor 6-0.

By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Paul Dierze, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Bylaw Governing Illicit Discharges to the Municipal Storm Drain System, Article Thirty-Eighth, voted in favor 6-0.

The Committee amended the statement of their recommendation on Stormwater Management Committee Bylaw, Article Thirty-Ninth, to replace the phrase “as follows:” with “as described above”. By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Heidi Bond, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Stormwater Management Committee Bylaw, Article Thirty-Ninth, as amended, voted in favor 6-0.

The Committee amended the statement of their recommendation on Stabilization Fund, Article Fortieth to reflect the sum of \$1,000 be transferred from Free Cash

to the Stabilization Fund. By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Steve Lais, the Finance Committee recommends positive action Stabilization Fund, Article Fortieth, as amended, voted in favor 6-0.

The Committee amended the statement of their recommendation on Free Cash, Article Forty-First to reflect the appropriate of the sum of \$222,329 from Free Cash. By motion of Holger Luther, seconded by Steve Lais, the Finance Committee recommends positive action on Free Cash, Article Forty-First, as amended, voted in favor 6-0.

VI. **Upcoming Meeting Schedule:** The Committee will meet on Monday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m.

VII. **Warrant Article Assignments:** Members were assigned Warrant Articles to present at Town Meeting

VIII. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Holger Luther to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Steve Lais, voted in favor 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erica Clay