



Topsfield Finance Committee
Minutes to the Meetings
April 23, 2018

I. Call to Order: Chair Karen Dow called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with Jon Guido, Che Elwell, Mike Hartmann, Eric Menzer, and Lou Ross present. Dana Warren was not present. Also present: Catherine Gabriel, Town Accountant; and Dick Gandt, Selectman. Members of the public present: David Larson, Gerry Buckley, Eldon Goodhue, Don Cragg and approximately 2 others.

II. Minutes: Eric Menzer made a motion to accept the minutes from April 9, 2018, as amended. Lou Ross seconded the motion, voted in favor 6-0-0.

III. Town Meeting Warrant Article Recommendations: Karen mentioned that warrant Article Thirty-fifth is still pending a recommendation. Lou Ross reported the planning board hearing took place on April 17th, and that they approved the zoning amendment to add to the overlay district, with a vote of 3-1-1. A short discussion followed. The FinCom will vote on Article Thirty-fifth at the next meeting, on May 1st.

Catherine Gabriel mentioned the snow & ice deficit is roughly \$36,315.

IV. Finance Committee Report at Annual Town Meeting: Karen discussed what is typically included in the Finance Committee Report that is presented at Town Meeting by the Chair of the Committee. Karen provided handouts of graphs that she created and a discussion followed as to whether they would be helpful to add to the report. Karen will make edits to the graphs discussed, and Jen can post the graphs on the Town website.

V. Correspondence: Karen mentioned that the full version of model V3.0 has been posted to the town website.

VI. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting: Catherine Gabriel mentioned the Town will issue a BAN in May, after another ratings review with S&P. Don Cragg expressed his thanks to the FinCom for work throughout the year.

VII. Upcoming Meeting Schedule: The next meeting of the Committee will be held May 1st at 6 PM, prior to Town Meeting, in the Proctor School Teacher's Lounge. The final meeting of the Town fiscal year will be in late June, likely the 27th.

VIII. Adjourn: A motion was made by Lou Ross to adjourn at 8:09 AM, seconded by Eric Menzer and voted in favor 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Davis

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes 4/9/18
3. Debt % of spending FY16 graph
4. Stabilization % of spending FY16
5. Free Cash % of spending FY16
6. School per pupil spending FY17
7. Towns in Essex County under 20,000 Population: MA DOR data
8. FY16 Spending per FY14 capita
9. Correlation between tax bill and per capita income
10. Basic home: single owner, no building permits
11. Topsfield debt not including Masconomet debt