



Topsfield Finance Committee
Minutes to the Meetings
September 22, 2014

I. Call to Order: Mark Lyons, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, with Heidi Bond, Karen Dow, Dana Warren, Jon Guido and Eric Menzer present. Kellie Hebert, Town Administrator (left at 7:25), Richard Gandt, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (left at 7:25), George Hall, Town Moderator, Margaret Vitale, Dr. Norman Gaudrault and Jeffy Demeter were also present.

II. FY 2015 Finance Committee Reorganization: A nomination was made by Karen Dow for Mark Lyons as the Committee Chair, seconded by Jon Guido, voted in favor 5-0-1 with Mark Lyons abstaining.

The Committee discussed future committee planning, chairman responsibilities, and considering an apprentice modeler for the upcoming year as 2 members plan to retire from the Committee at the end of the fiscal year.

A nomination was made by Heidi Bond for Karen Dow as the Committee Vice Chair, seconded by Dana Warren, voted in favor 5-0-1 with Karen Dow abstaining.

A nomination was made by Karen Dow for Eric Menzer as the Committee Clerk, seconded by Dana Warren, voted in favor 5-0-1 with Eric Menzer abstaining.

Chairman Lyons informed the Committee that a search for a recording secretary is ongoing.

III. Liaison Assignments: The Committee discussed preliminary liaison assignments for the upcoming year. Jon Guido agreed to be the Elementary School I liaison. Dana Warren agreed to be the Masco I liaison and Eric Menzer agreed to be the Police and Fire II liaison. No final action was taken.

IV. Citizens Petition: Fluoridation of the Town's Public Water Supply: Dr. Norman Gaudrault spoke on behalf of 12 pediatricians and dentists in support of fluoride remaining in the public water. He shared that it is considered a major health advancement and has safely and cost effectively been added to the water supply for more than 70 years. Collectively they do not want old problems to come back if the fluoride is eliminated. Dr. Gaudrault asked the Finance Committee to vote no action and maintain the fluoride program currently in place.

Jeffy Demeter, the petitioner outlined for the Committee that she brought this petition forward due to her work time constraints during the annual town meeting process.

She believes there are alternatives to adding fluoride to the public water supply and wants the Town to have the opportunity to discuss and vote of it again. She does not believe fluoride is effective or safe.

Following the Petitioners comments, Chairman Lyons outlined the process of filing a Citizen Petition and emphasized that single non-emergency, non-time sensitive unscheduled STM's are costly to the Town, burdensome to volunteer board and committee members and are disruptive to Town calendars, processes, and procedures.

Chairman Lyons will be drafting a Citizen Fact sheet to outline the 45 day notice period, Town Annual Calendar, waiver options and will request the Town Administrator, Selectmen and Town Clerk that it be placed on the Website and distributed with future petition forms.

Chairman Lyons outlined the complexity of the procedures relative to fluoride in the Town water supply and that the Town Meeting only has the ability to weigh in if the Board of Health has ordered an increase in the water supply Fluoride level and that this is not the case. Therefore, the Petition as worded, if passed would absolutely be non-binding.

Chairman Lyons suggested that the Town Meeting authorize the Moderator to appoint a study Committee to report to the next duly convened ATM on the subject of this Petition. Following additional discussion, Dana Warren made the motion that the Finance Committee recommend that the Town Meeting authorize the Moderator to appoint a five (5) member study committee to report to the next duly convened Annual Town Meeting on the subject of the Petition. The motion was seconded by Karen Dow, voted in favor 6-0.

V. Confirmation of Reappointee/Appointee Oaths: All reappointee oaths have been completed.

VI. Member Address list: The address list was reviewed by those present and corrected where needed.

VII. Town Clerk 2016 package: No action taken.

VIII. Public Records and Open Meeting Law: Confirmed all members have seen and are familiar with the Public Records and Open Meeting Laws.

IX. Warrant Timetable for FY2016 Budget: Chairman Lyons shared that the Town Administrator is working on the Warrant timetable and will have it available for our next meeting.

X. FY2016 Budget Guidelines: A general discussion occurred with no definitive direction or conclusions at such an early point in the process. Jon Guido will work with the Elementary Schools on guidelines.

XI. Post-Town Meeting Revised Model: No action taken. Karen Dow informed the Committee we are awaiting updates on new growth free cash.

XII. Upcoming Meeting Schedule: The STM will be held on September 30, 2014. The next meetings of the Committee will occur on October 20, 2014, November 3, 2014 and November 17, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Proctor School Teachers Lounge.

XIII. Adjourn: A motion was made by Karen Dow to adjourn at 8:47 PM, seconded by Eric Menzer, voted in favor 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Bond