

Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room

1. FinCom Members Present: J. Allam, J. Collamati, K. Grant, R. Cohen, J. Kuzmeskas, K. Keppler, J. Flannery

2. FinCom Members Absent: All Members Present

3. Meeting Commenced: K. Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

4. J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting, as presented. K. Grant seconded. Recommended 7/0.

5. **7:00 PUBLIC HEARING** – Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Compliance Officer, was present to discuss Articles 7 and 8 on the Town Warrant. Mr. Kupfer gave a brief summary on Article 7 – Marijuana Establishments. Approving this Article would allow companies that are already cultivating marijuana to manufacture items with the product they have grown, instead of shipping it out of Town to be made into products. J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 7 as presented. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0 – J. Allam was not present for this motion.

Petitioner, Stephen Mandile was present to discuss Article 8 – Marijuana Retailers. Mr. Mandile introduced himself to the Committee and explained why he is requesting a zoning bylaw amendment for marijuana retailers. Committee members asked questions regarding traffic studies, the proposed location of the retail establishment, security of the location and surrounding areas, etc.

K. Grant made a motion to recommend Article 8 as presented. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/2 – J. Collamati and J. Allam opposed this recommendation.

6. **7:10 PUBLIC HEARING** – Joseph Antonellis from Mayer, Antonellis, Jachowicz & Haranas, LLP, on behalf of his client, was present to provide a brief summary of what is being requested through Article 10 of the Town Warrant.

Mr. Antonellis gave all members a copy of the proposed zoning changes that will be requested on behalf of his client and Petitioner, Kevin P. Meehan. There is a meeting scheduled for this coming Saturday for all residents that will be affected by these proposed zoning changes. Committee members decided to take “No Action” on this Article at tonight’s meeting. This item will be continued to a future meeting after all other departments have discussed this Article.

7. **7:20 PUBLIC HEARING** – DPW Director, Don DiMartino was present to discuss various Articles on the Town Warrant.

Article 11–Hartford Ave Well 7 Zone 1 Permanent Easements – Mr. DiMartino recommended “Passing Over,” this Article at this time as the surveyor has not finished drafting a plan to define the easement.

Article 12 – Charles River Grove Bellingham Drainage and Roadway Easements & Parcel Acquisition – J. Flannery made a motion to recommend an amount, not to exceed \$30,000 to be transferred from the Road Bond Funding Source for this Article. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 7/0.

Article 13 – Acceptance of Public Ways at No Cost – Mr. DiMartino gave a brief summary on each street that would be accepted under this Article. K. Keppler made a motion to recommend the acceptance of the streets listed under Article 13. K. Grant seconded. Recommended 6/0 – J. Collamati abstained from this motion.

Article 14 – Establish Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund – K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 14. K. Grant seconded. Recommended 7/0.

Article 15 – Bertine Street Bellingham Retaining Wall Roadway Easements & Parcel Acquisition – Mr. DiMartino recommended “Passing Over,” this Article at this time, as he has not received finalized construction plans yet.

Article 16 – Welker Way, Street Acceptance – This Article will be discussed at a later meeting, after it is heard by the Planning Board.

Article 5 – Capital Outlay (Expenditures \$50,000 and Over)

Ms. MacKinnon handed out information regarding various department that will be coming forward with Capital and Non-Capital Outlay requests. Mr. DiMartino gave a brief summary of his requests to the Committee.

The following requests were presented to the Finance Committee for consideration under Article 5:

- Dead Tree Removal Project in the amount of \$100,000 for approximately 170 additional dead trees that need to be taken down
- Front End Loader in the amount of \$179,000 to replace a 2003 Loader that will stay in the fleet
- Small Dump Truck with Plow in the amount of \$88,845 that was approved in the previous Fiscal Year but not funded
- Medium Size Truck with Hot Box in the amount of \$115,000
- Trackless Machine in the amount of \$130,000 to replace the old 2002 Trackless Machine

Article 6 – Non-Capital Outlay (Expenditures of Less Than \$50,000)

The following requests were presented to the Finance Committee for consideration under Article 6:

- Replacement of a 2004 Parks Department pickup truck in the amount of \$45,000
- Purchase of a Pull Box in the amount of \$28,000 to be able to do more in-house asphalt repairs and with better quality than the current methods
- Purchase of 2 electronic message board in the amount of \$45,000 (\$22,500 each)

No Recommendations were made on Articles 5 or 6 at this time. Ms. MacKinnon will be finalizing the budget and funding sources and will provide the Committee with this information at the next Finance Committee meeting.

8. 7:40 PUBLIC HEARING – Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Fraine were present to discuss various Articles on the Town Warrant.

Article 2 – Amend Article 2 – Trash Enterprise – Ms. MacKinnon recommended “Passing Over.”

Article 3 – Amend Article 3 – Water Enterprise – Ms. MacKinnon recommended “Passing Over.”

Article 4 – Amend Article 4 – Sewer Enterprise – Ms. MacKinnon recommended “Passing Over.”

Article 22 – Water Stabilization Fund – Ms. MacKinnon recommended “Passing Over.”

Article 18 – Purchase of Land

Mr. Fraine discussed Article 18 and the plans for the Town to purchase the parcel of land located at 12 Mechanic Street for general municipal purposes. J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$480,000 to be funded through Free Cash and to be paid over 4 years in an interest free loan of \$95,000 per year. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 7/0.

9. Committee Members discussed the departments that still need to come into a Finance Committee meeting and the timeframe that the Booklet for the Special Town Meeting needs to be prepared. An additional meeting needed to be added to the schedule. The next Finance Committee meeting will be Thursday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.

10. New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

No new business, emails, correspondence or bills to discuss at this meeting.

A motion to adjourn at 9:08 was made by J. Flannery and seconded by K. Grant. Recommended 7/0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin

Tina M. Griffin