

**Finance Committee
Minutes of May 18, 2015**

Present for the Finance Committee meeting was: Chairman Louise Tremblay, Vice Chair Helen Hamel, Gerald D'Avolio, Joseph Herlihy, Bob Corey and John Zimini. Also present were: James A. Duggan, Town Manager, Ann Vandal, Assistant Town Manager/Finance, Linda Wright, Town Accountant and Recording Secretary Samantha Carver. The meeting was held at 62 Arlington Street, 1st Floor conference room.

Absent: Ed Pitta

Ms. Tremblay was delayed to the meeting so Vice Chair Ms. Hamel opened the meeting at 6:14 p.m. and stated the Committee will review and vote on the tabled town meeting warrant articles, the first one being Article 20. Town Manager Duggan began the discussion explaining that the Dracut Housing Authority Board voted to accept, based upon the recommendations of an outside independent consultant performing a senior housing feasibility analysis on two parcels offered for senior housing 144 Greenmont Avenue which is a 17 acre parcel. 11 Spring Park Avenue which was a significantly smaller parcel is not going to be considered at this time. The Dracut Housing Authority & the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to proceed forward with the 17 acre parcel at 144 Greenmont Avenue. The Architect is going to the Community Preservation Committee on Tuesday night to make a presentation to them on the housing project. They will also go to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday night the 26th of May and make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen to answer any questions. On the floor at Town Meeting the Spring Park Avenue parcel will be withdrawn.

Louise Tremblay arrived at the meeting and took over the Chair at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Zimini moved to recommend Article 20 for \$3 million from Community Preservation for 144 Greenmont Avenue senior housing project. Ms. Hamel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Duggan also expanded that tomorrow he is going into Boston, MA with Mary Karabatsos, the Director of the Dracut Housing Authority to follow up on a meeting with Deputy Secretary Kirk for additional funding on this project. Currently they have \$3 million from Community Preservation and the Dracut Housing Authority is applying for \$1 million in conventional financing. Mr. Duggan will request an additional \$4 million dollars from the Deputy Secretary which is a match of the \$4 million.

Article 21 – Mr. Duggan stated that Article 21 on the Spring Park Avenue property will be withdrawn on the floor.

Mr. Corey made motion to recommend dismissal of Article 21. Mr. Zimini seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 23 – Town Manager Duggan explained that he is currently in negotiations with the current land owner on this parcel and cannot release any information at this time. He is requesting this article be tabled.

Mr. Zimini made a motion to table Article 23 until the next Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Hamel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of May 11, 2015. Mr. Zimini noted a correction on Article 24 whereas it's written that Article 24 was approved when it was tabled. The Secretary will make this change to the minutes.

Mr. D'Avolio made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Herlihy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor except Mr. Corey who abstained from the vote.

Article 31 – At the last meeting the Committee did not have a motion to consider on this article. It was also noted that the Petitioner was not currently present at this meeting. Mr. Zimini made a motion to table this article until next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Corey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion about the agenda moving forward and which items the Committee would like to see left on the agenda.

Mr. Cowan arrived at the meeting and was recognized by the Chair and Article 31 was heard.

Mr. Cowan came to the lectern and made a presentation to the Finance Committee on Article 31.

Mr. Zimini made a motion to not recommend Article 31. Mr. Corey seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. D'Avolio commented that he was going to abstain from voting for he was not clear on the issue of debt exclusion versus override and needed clarification. Ms. Vandal, the Assistant Town Manager Finance explained the two key differences to Mr. D'Avolio and stated she could elaborate further after the meeting. The motion moved to a vote with five in favor and one member abstained. Mr. D'Avolio abstained from voting.

Next Meeting

Discussion ensued on the Finance Committee's next meeting date so that they could go over the two tabled Articles #23 & #24.

It was decided that the Finance Committee would meet again on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the 2nd Floor Conference Room to continue discussions on the articles.

Adjourn

Mr. Zimini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. Mr. Corey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Harlihy
Robert E. Corey
Dawnie Trumbly

Absent: Ed Pitta

John J. Zimini
Daniel