

**Finance Committee  
Minutes of October 08, 2015**

Present from the Finance Committee: Chairman Louise Tremblay, Vice Chair, Helen Hamel, Bob Corey, Ed Pitta and Joe DiCarlo. Also present: Town Manager, James A. Duggan, Assistant Town Manager -Treasurer Ann Vandal and Recording Secretary Suzanne Noel. The meeting was held at Town Hall Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 62 Arlington Street, Dracut, MA.

Chairman Tremblay opened the meeting and asked the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager if they would like to go over the articles pertaining to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Vandal stated that she would like to start with Article #2-1 and the Board did not have that Article on their list. Ms. Vandal stated that they were not given the revised Warrant and took a few minutes to make copies for the Board.

**Articles for November's Town Meeting:**

**Article #2-1**

This article pertains to the revolving School account that gives the school a 70/30% on rental property to help the school with their budget shortfall. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Pitta and seconded by Bob Corey. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #3**

Transfer from free cash a sum of money to Equipment Stabilization Fund for FY 2015. Mr. Duggan explained this is a pay back to the DPW and Fire of \$100,000.00 that they borrowed in order to balance budget. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Corey for discussion. . Mr. Corey had some concern with taking free cash and does not want to set precedence. Mr. Duggan stated he understands his concern but it had to be done, it was the only free cash available. It is not the intention to use any free cash monies but we do have to have that flexibility on a case by case basis. If they did not borrow these monies it would have been detrimental to the school. Mr. Pitta asked if there is a percentage of free cash required by the Town to have. Ms. Vandal stated yes, the State and Creditors like to see 8% -10%. The vote carried unanimously to approve.

**Article #4**

Amend the budget for the Sewer Department for FY 2015. Ms. Vandal stated they need to reduce the budget because the revenue is lower than they anticipated. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Corey and seconded by Mr. Pitta. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #5**

Amend the budget of the Kenwood Water Department for FY 2015. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Corey and seconded by Mr. Pitta. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #6**

Board of Library Trustees to expend the funds registration fees, activities fees, rentals, etc. from \$20,000 to \$30,000.00. Mr. Duggan explained this would be done with his approval. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Corey. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #7**

Approval to repair the roof at Englesby Elementary School at 1580 Lakeview Avenue at a cost of \$17,000. Mr. Duggan explained the need to repair the roof. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Pitta and seconded by Mr. Corey. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #8**

Transfer \$23,840 received from Homeless Transportation to the School Department. Mr. Pitta asked has this money already been received. Ms. Vandal stated yes it is sitting in the bank and they are looking to put it into the school department funds. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Corey. The vote carried unanimously.

**Article #9**

Reduce the Sewer Tie in Fee from \$7,500 to \$3,500. Mr. Duggan noted that he feels the rates are not supported and is asking to reduce the fee. Mr. Pitta asked who set the fees. Mr. Duggan stated it was done by the Sewer Commission and went to the BOS for approval. A motion to recommend was made by Mr. Corey and Seconded by Ms. Hamel for discussion. Discussion on the motion: Mr. Pitta asked if they reduce the fee would there be a shortfall in the budget. Ms. Vandal stated yes and they would have to increase the sewer rates. Mr. Pitta asked how much of an increase. Ms. Vandal was not sure and would have to do a complete analysis and felt it would be around \$60.00 per household. The motion moved to a vote with the Committee voting unanimously.

**Article #16**

Community Preservation Act funds to purchase the property at 650 Marsh Hill Road. Mr. Duggan stated that the market analysis came in on the high side of \$835,000 but the owner accepted the Town's offer of \$800,000.00. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Pitta and seconded by Mr. Corey for discussion. Discussion on the motion: Mr. Corey asked with the Town needing revenue why we would want to purchase the land when several houses could be built on the property generating tax revenue. Ms. Trembley stated this is very nice piece of property and has a lot of potential and the Town does need open space. The impact on the schools, trash, police, fire, etc. would be more detrimental to the Town then getting the tax revenue. The vote carried unanimously.

**Joint Budget Task Force report by Mr. Bob Corey:**

Mr. Corey discussed how they have asked the joint task force to do a Delta, Presentation including four main topics. He stated that they actually got to see the breakdown in expenses. He noted that the Joint Budget Task Force wants a list of what "we" the Finance Committee actually does. Ms. Trembley stated did you explain to them that they go through every line item one by one. Ms. Trembley stated that the next meeting is October 22, 2015 at 7:00 at Harmony Hall and encouraged the entire Finance Team to attend.

**ATFC dues:**

A motion to approve the fees of \$333.00 for ATFC Annual Dues was made by Mr. Corey and seconded by Ms. Hamel. The vote carried unanimously.

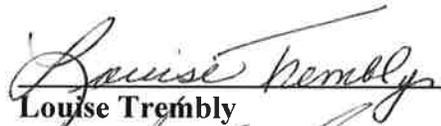
**Minutes of June 1, 2015 meeting:**

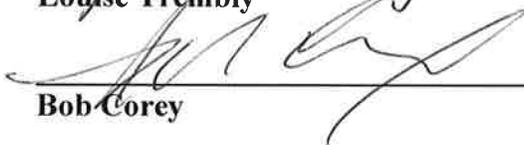
A motion to approve the minutes for June 1, 2015 was made by Mr. Corey and seconded by Ms. Hamel. The vote carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Corey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Hamel. The motion carried unanimously.

**Finance Committee**

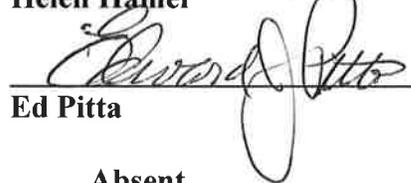
  
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Louise Trembley

  
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Bob Corey

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Absent  
Gerald D'Avolio

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe DiCarlo

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Hamel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Pitta

\_\_\_\_\_  
Absent  
Joseph Herlihy