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Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2011

Place: Lower Town Hall

Present:

Christine Horwath	P	Mark Andrews	P	Howard Fortner	P
Peter DeMers	P	John Morawski	P	Ray Wright	P
Maureen Kearnan	P				

Call to Order: 7:02 PM

1. Minutes: September 21, 2011, September 24, 2011

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 21, 2011, as amended.				
1 st	JM	2 nd	PD	Vote	6-0-1

Discussion: Mr. DeMers recommended several changes to the draft version of the minutes that had been sent out for comment, which were incorporated into the document and approved.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 24, 2011.				
1 st	JM	2 nd	PD	Vote	7-0-0

2. Public Hearings Policy

Discussion: Most of the discussion centered on how to best deal with Non-Financial Articles and the appropriate wording for such a policy. The concerns of the Finance Committee included how such a policy might be written so as not to contradict the Bylaws of the Town Charter or so as not to be so broad that the policy would be unnecessary. Mr. Morawski stated that the policy is meant to be about procedural consistency for the Finance Committee, not to circumvent the Charter or Bylaws. The Chairman, Ms. Horwath, would consider the points made during the discussion and revise the draft of the proposed policy.

Prior to this discussion, Mr. Fortner objected to its inclusion in the meeting because it was not referred to specifically in the posted agenda. The objection was noted by the Chair.

ART 7 Sec. 6

3. Fall Town Meeting Public Hearings: Non Financial Articles
Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

Note: An earlier version of the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting had been circulated, and it listed 12 Articles; the version discussed in tonight's Public Hearing lists only 11 Articles.

ARTICLE 8: BORROWING RESCISSION; WELLHEAD PROTECTION AND PURCHASE

According to the Town Finance Director, David Genereux, and the Town Manager, Sean Hendricks, this borrowing was approved in 2008, but the property was never purchased because the Town moved forward with a different project. As long as this borrowing remains authorized by the Town, this liability remains on the Town's books. It is a housekeeping matter.

ARTICLE 9: ARTICLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY SLOPE/GRADE CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT

Mr. Hendricks stated that the reason for this Article is to convert the license for the use of this land to an easement. A license can be rescinded, whereas easements exist in perpetuity. The land owner is in agreement. No money will change hands, but an agreement between the land owner and the Town has been made for tax abatement proportionate to the percentage of land represented by the easement.

ARTICLE 10: AMEND THE ZONING BYLAWS

The Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mark Wickstrom, stated that the purpose of this Article is to allow for manufacturing establishments. According to Mr. Wickstrom, this use was excluded by omission in 2008, an oversight that this Article seeks to correct. Mr. Wickstrom noted that without this change, manufacturing establishments must now undergo a two Board process, i.e. the Zoning Board and the Planning Board, and approval of this Article would mean that approval need only be given by the Planning Board. Since the Planning Board is authorized to consult experts, experts will play a role in setting conditions for approval of manufacturing establishments. Mr. Wickstrom also reported that both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously voted in favor of this Article.

ARTICLE 11: CITIZEN'S PETITION – AMEND THE ZONING BYLAWS

Mr. Mike Delmonico, the sponsor of this Article, was present, and Mr. Wickstrom, spoke to this Article, noting that the Planning Board had voted in favor of it, 5-0. The purpose of this Article is to allow four lots across the street from the building that once housed the Cocke & Kettle restaurant would have the option for business use.

At this point, just over one hour into the meeting the Finance Committee asked if anyone else from the public wished to comment on the Articles discussed. Since no one came forward, the Finance Committee began a review of some of the other Articles on the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1: REPORTS

According to Mr. Genereux, no motion will be made on reports from the School Building Committee or the Charter Review Committee.

ARTICLE 2: TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE TO THE PEG ACCESS CABLE ACCOUNT

Mr. Genereux stated that in order to comply with Massachusetts General Law, the Town closes out the PEG Access Cable Account and moves the balance to the Unexpended Unencumbered Fund, which is also known as "Free Cash." The Town then seeks to roll these revenues back in to the PEG Access Cable Account, again to comply with Massachusetts General Law. The current Free Cash balance is \$280,815, and the balance of the PEG Access Account is \$267,300. After this move has been made, the balance of Free Cash would be \$13,515.

ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

Assuming favorable action on Article 2, Mr. Genereux said, the balance of the Free Cash Account would be moved to the Stabilization Fund. As shown of Exhibit 3 on the Draft version of the Warrant from which the Finance Committee is working for tonight's meeting, the Free Cash Account would be closed out, and the balance of the Stabilization Fund would increase from \$1,162,122.01 to \$1,175,637.01.

ARTICLE 4: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

Mr. Genereux reported that there are no bills from the prior year.

ARTICLE 5: FY12 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mr. Genereux noted that this Article pertains to transfers.

ARTICLE 6: FY12 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

The Finance Committee looked to item B1 of this Article, which seeks to transfer \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund to the Unemployment Fund.

According to Mr. Genereux, the Town is obligated by State and Federal extensions to pay unemployment benefits to those receiving it, and because the Town is currently spending \$25,000 per month, the Unemployment Fund will be depleted prior to the next opportunity to seek a transfer, which would be the Spring Annual Town Meeting in May 2012.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To continue the Public Hearing to October 19th.				
1 st	MA	2 nd	PD	Vote	7-0-0

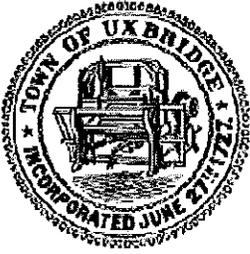
4. Special Town Meeting Review

Mr. Hendricks stated that from the Town's perspective, everything proceeded as it should have. Mr. Genereux stated that the Town came within the expected budget.

5. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn.				
1 st	MA	2 nd	PD	Vote	7-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath	<i>Christine Horwath</i>	10/19/11
Mark Andrews	<i>Mark Andrews</i>	10/19/11
Howard Fortner		
Peter DeMers	<i>Peter DeMers</i>	10/19/2011
John Morawski	<i>John Morawski</i>	10/19/2011
Ray Wright		
Maureen Kearnan	<i>Maureen Kearnan</i>	10/19/11