

MEETING MINUTES-WEST NEWBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Tuesday October 8th, 2019 7:00 pm

Location : 1910 Building 1st Floor Hearing Room

Attendees: Gary L. Roberts Jr., Chairman, Forbes Durey, Nathan Kelly, Jim Sperelakis, Brad Beaudoin, Jessica Knezek, Angus Jennings

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment, Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per resident for items on the agenda. The chair may allow for more time depending on number of residents seeking to participate.

None.

3. Late File Items

None.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes from 9/24/2019 approved 6-0.

5. Planning Board Articles 13-16(revised #'s to reflect current warrant draft)

Brian Murphey, Chairman of the planning board. The articles reflect minor changes that can be summarized as "housekeeping". Terminology has been cleaned up, made more clear or in some instances removed in favor of state regulations covering the same areas. Kelly noted that he felt that the planning board should write the rationals for planning related topics. Murphey noted that the rationals are the "finance committee's" and thus should be written by the FinCom. Kelly clarified that perhaps the planning boards votes and rationals should be placed in lieu of the FinCom's. Durey agreed with Kelly. Sperelakis asked if there was a meaningful difference in meaning of article 16 changing the language from "not to exceed four" to "three or four". Murphey said he was not sure but that he would ask Leah.

Articles #13-16 vote: 6-0 approve

6. Community Preservation Committee

A. Article 7 Kitchen & bathroom renovation

No action taken on this item(approved in the FinCom Meeting on 9/24/19)

B. Article 8 Steele Historical Marker

Eliza Grammer gave a brief summary of Julian Steele, noting that more information on him can also be found on wikipedia.

Vote 6-0 approve

C. Article 9 Carr Post restoration

Bob Janes, Peter Ringenbach present. The article would request ~\$250,000 from CPC to allow for the initial designing phases to be started and the remaining funds \$1.25-1.5M from borrowing at a 2.5% note of over 20 years at ~\$80,000/year. Knezek asked what the proposed use for the building is? Janes said the Carr Post Committee has decided that office space is the best use with some space for display of civil war memorabilia. As for office space, parks and rec, girl/boy scouts could benefit from the office space. Roberts noted that given the other capital needs to the town, even with his emotional desire to support this article, he generally felt the money would be better spent on other projects.

Vote 1-5 disapprove, Sperelakis in favor

7. Board of Selectman

A. Article 10 Unemployment transfer

There were 2 employees that were terminated and there is a potential insurance liability of \$7,527.

Vote 6-0 approve.

B. Article 11 Transfer to reduce tax rate

The numbers for this article have not been decided yet and thus this article will be deferred until the joint FinCom/BoS meeting on 10/15. Free cash estimates are in the \$2-2.5M range. Durey reminded the committee of the BoS and FinCom's efforts to reduce the Town's free cash to ~5%(\$750,000) with either a transfer to stabilization or to buy down the tax rate.

8. Communications/Committee Reports

Capital Improvement Committee is meeting on 10/9/2019.

9. Town Manager updates

The board of health has circulated a flier asking how the town felt about paying for trash removal. This flier was not well received by the committee.

10. Adjournment