

Meeting Minutes

West Newbury Finance Committee

Date/Time: June 27, 2020, @9:20 a.m.

Location: Town Annex

Present: Gary Roberts, Forbes Durey, Brad Beaudoin, Nathan Kelly, Jessica Knezek, Jim Sperelakis

1.) Call to Order at 9:21 a.m.

2.) Approval of Minutes: none

3.) Public Comment. Present: Don Doak, Eric Boes. Mr. Doak spoke in support of the Citizen's Petition Article, #6 on the agenda.

4.) Discussion: Mr. Jennings explains how a benefit-eligible veteran has moved to Town. 75% of the expenditure will be reimbursed eventually.

Motion to Increase Veterans Service in line-item budget. Approved 5-0-0. (Beaudoin not yet present).

5.) Discussion: Mr. Jennings laid out details regarding a service/maintenance contract that Energy Advisory Committee would like expended in relation to the proposed electric vehicle charging station article. Five year contract would be for \$11,980, so he is looking to add \$2,400 per year. It cannot be added to the article, and due to timing, it cannot be added at Fall Special Town Meeting either. General consensus was concern about raising the budget when the article has not been approved, and additional increases to the DPW budget.

Motion to Increase Department of Public Works line-item budget. Disapproved 0-6-0.

6.) Discussion: Mr. Doak explained that the article would support legal, and other site-related services, and was now amended to a \$100,000 request, with a two-year sunset date. Mrs. Knezek asked - what does success look like in this scenario? Mr. Jennings stated that the site will likely be developed. The funds would be used to help the Town through a 40B process to challenge the developer's plan, which is often an uphill battle. Success looks like a project that is reasonable. Mr. Spereklakis asks how the funds will be spent. Mr. Jennings notes mostly on legal fees through the different appeal phases. Mr. Kelly spoke in support of the amended article, noting that \$80,000 would be a preferred amount based on advice from KP Law, but notes that it is important that the Board of Selectmen have the ultimate control of funds to be best directed for the benefit of the Town as a whole, so he will support the amended amount.

Motion to support Citizen's Petition Article, as amended. Approved 3-1-2. (Roberts dissented, Durey and Beaudoin abstained).

7.) Future meeting to be scheduled to handle end of year transfers. Adjourn: 9:50 a.m.

Minutes by: Mr. Kelly