

**Needham Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting of June 25, 2014**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by the Chair, Richard Lunetta, at approximately 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Present from the Finance Committee:

Richard Lunetta, Chair; John Connelly, Vice Chair
Members: Louise Miller, Lisa Zappala, Richard Zimbone

Others present

David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

Citizen Requests

There were no requests to address the Committee.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOVED: By Mr. Zimbone that the minutes of June 11, 2014 be approved as distributed.
Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

MOVED: By Mr. Connelly that the minutes of May 7, 2014 be approved as distributed.
Ms. Zappala seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Election of Chairs for FY 2015

Mr. Lunetta thanked members and staff for their hard work during the past fiscal year. He asked Ms. Zappala for a motion of behalf of the nominating committee.

MOVED: By Ms. Zappala, on behalf of the nominating committee, that the Finance Committee elect John Connelly as Chair. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Connelly abstained.

Mr. Connelly, as Chair, called for the election of a Vice Chair.

MOVED: By Ms. Zappala, on behalf of the nominating committee, that the Finance Committee elect Louise Miller as Vice Chair. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0-1. Ms. Miller abstained.

Mr. Connelly stated that there was a chairs meeting that morning with leadership of the Finance Committee, School Committee, Board of Selectmen and PPBC discussing the proposed High School expansion project. Ultimately, it was agreed that the project should follow the usual procedure for capital projects, and the RFQ for design work would be cancelled. The chairs also discussed the Schools' collective bargaining agreements for units C, D, and E, which have all

been agreed at annual salary increases of over 4%, which is greater than the Town's guidelines. The Finance Committee and town administration were disappointed, but the School Committee had stated that the increase was needed in order to bargain in good faith. Mr. Connelly stated that while there is a limited number of employees covered by these agreements, the agreements will set precedent for other units. Mr. Davison noted that these salary increases are in addition to the increases funded by the override. He stated that procedurally the agreements will go forward since the School Committee and unions have agreed to the terms. Mr. Zimbone pointed out that the Finance Committee can recommend a lower School budget line to Town Meeting.

Mr. Connelly thanked Mr. Lunetta for his Finance Committee leadership.

Adjourn

MOVED: By Mr. Zimbone that the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned, there being no further business. Ms. Zappala seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Mizgerd,
Executive Secretary/Staff Analyst

Approved September 3, 2014