

**Needham Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting of May 4, 2015**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by the Chair, John Connelly, at approximately 7:37 pm in the Great Plain Room at the Town Hall.

Present from the Finance Committee:

John Connelly, Chair; Louise Miller, Vice Chair

Members: Barry Coffman, Richard Creem, Richard Reilly, Lisa Zappala, Rick 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. Reilly that the minutes of April 22, 2015 be approved as most recently distributed, subject to technical corrections. Mr. Zimbone seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Ms. Zappala and Mr. Creem had not yet arrived.)

Annual Town Meeting

Article 16 – Appropriate the FY 2016 Operating Budget - Motion to Amend

Mr. Connelly stated that the motion moves \$180,500 from the FY16 Reserve Fund to the School Department budget to fully fund the iPad purchases.

MOVED: By Mr. Reilly that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of the Motion to Amend Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 16: Appropriate the FY 2016 Operating Budget.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Miller stated that the School Department has indicated that these additional funds would go into the operating capital line. However, this appropriation will place the funds in the School Department budget, which is only one budget line. The funds will not be specifically appropriated as operating capital.

Mr. Reilly noted that there were significant questions and concerns raised at the League of Women’s Voters meetings about the fact that this year parents were required to supply iPads for the 1:1 program, and next year, the School Department will buy them.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. (Mr. Creem had not yet arrived.)

Article 38: Appropriate for High School Expansion – Motion to Amend

Mr. Connelly stated that this amendment will change the appropriation to \$150,000 for funds to design only the cafeteria expansion part of the proposed project. The amendment also deletes some of the funding sources. Mr. Zimbone pointed out that there is some inaccurate information in the School Committee handout for Town Meeting. The document states that the Finance Committee “would support a reserve fund transfer to allow additional work on options for addressing the classroom space deficit.” Mr. Zimbone stated that he was not aware of this position. Ms. Miller stated that there was a discussion about this topic at the Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee leadership, but that was not what was stated.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of the Motion to Amend Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 38: Appropriate for High School Expansion. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Town Meeting Updates

Mr. Davison stated that there are also proposed amendments to Articles 14, 22, and 30 to address technical corrections. They do not make substantive changes and do not need to be voted by the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Updates

Mr. Creem stated that because his professional responsibilities, he will be resigning from the Finance Committee, effective June 30, 2015. He stated that he has informed the Moderator.

Suspend

MOVED: By Mr. Zimbone that the Finance Committee meeting be suspended to attend the Annual Town Meeting and to reconvene as necessary. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0, at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

MOVED: By Mr. Zimbone that the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned, as there was no further business. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0, at approximately 10:52 p.m.

Documents: Town of Needham, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Mizgerd
Executive Secretary/Staff Analyst

Approved June 24, 2015