

Finance Committee Minutes

April 14th 2016

The minutes were distributed at 6:30PM. The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM. Present were, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. Thomas Stalker, Mr. Robert Miller, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, and Ms. Mari Enoch. Guests were Mrs. Michele Shalaby, Ms. Tara White, and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem.

The minutes for March 31st, were accepted as amended, Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Mr. Herrick presented a letter from the Association of Town Finance Committees inviting the members to several informative meetings. Mr. Stalker expressed an interest in attending one of these meetings.

The following members need the Commonwealth book on Finance Committees. Mrs. Spaulding had given her disc to Ms. Chretien (the town clerk) to have her make a hard copy; however that has not been forthcoming. Ms. Enoch stated that she would look into this and provide the following members with hard copies for Mr. Yohalem, Mr. Stalker, Mr. Miller, Mr. Carson and Mrs. Spaulding.

Ms. Enoch then presented the committee members with a draft of the Town Warrant to be presented to the voters on Monday May 2nd. She stated that the "cola" that the Finance Committee had recommended of 2% had been accepted, that one of the trucks requested by the Highway Department had been withdrawn, that the excavator had been put back to Free Cash; and that the selectmen were not in agreement about supporting the school budget. However since the Finance committee did not recommend accepting the school budget this was noted in the Warrant. Mr. Yohalem stated that this recommendation should be highlighted so that the voters were made aware that the Finance committee did **NOT** recommend the school budget. Ms. Enoch stated that she would put this in bold print in the Warrant.

Mrs. Spaulding suggested that the Article 34, the wording might be as follows:-

"To see if the town will vote to increase the exemption stated in MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K, The Senior Citizen Property Work-Off Program by allowing the maximum reduction of the real Property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$1,000, or to take any other vote in relation thereto." Mrs. Enoch stated that this wording had

been sanctioned by the town lawyer; however she would ask him if the wording could be changed.

Mr. Herrick reminded the committee members that their attendance at the Saturday April 30th meeting at 10:00 AM was required, and also that members should plan to be present at 6:00PM on Monday May 2nd, (this is one hour before Town Meeting) so that those members could prepare to do presentations should this be necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03PM Mr. Ira Yohalem 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.