

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance via Zoom: Plato Adams, Jim Barron, David Graham, Steve Gogolinski and Joseph Laydon

Finance Committee Member not in Attendance: Chris Pilla

Town of Northbridge Administration in Attendance:

Adam Gaudette, Town Manager – Town of Northbridge, MA

Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant - Town of Northbridge, MA

Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Plato Adams of the Finance Committee at 6:30 PM via Zoom and the following statement was read:

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided in the Order.”

The meeting floor was given to Adam Gaudette, Town Manager – Town of Northbridge, MA and the following items were discussed:

Re – Organization of the Finance Committee

The re-organization of the Finance Committee will take place at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Appointment of Finance Committee Members to the Charter Review Committee

A motion to appoint Joe Laydon and Jim Barron from the Finance Committee to the Charter Review Committee was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – Approval

A motion to approve the 06/23/2020 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as written was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the 07/20/2020 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as written was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Town Manager Update

The Town Manager gave a brief update of each article as follows:

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October 27, 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 1: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2020 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (originally scheduled for May 5, 2020 then postponed to June 23, 2020), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, to raise and appropriate, and/or to transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund to supplement appropriations under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto.

Per the Town Manager it is anticipated that overall the schools will lose roughly \$60,000 and they will need to absorb this decrease in their overall budget.

ARTICLE 2: (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of one or more of the departments of the Town various sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills; or take any other action relative thereto.

Per the Town Manager there will be an increase to general liability insurance relating to Police and Fire Workers Compensation deductible in the amount of a couple hundred dollars.

ARTICLE 3: (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way, Hannah Drive as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen, a copy of which layout is on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, and further authorize the Board of Selectmen, in the name and behalf of the Town, to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, gift or otherwise, easements in said way for the purpose for which public ways are used in the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Per the Town Manager this topic will be discussed at the next Planning Board meeting.

ARTICLE 4: (Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue so much of Piedmont Street as is located easterly of the easterly side line of Hope Street; or take any other action relating thereto.

Per the Town Manager there will be a Public Hearing next week.

ARTICLE 5: (Petition)

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 59 §38H to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Real and Personal Property Tax Agreement with **Northbridge McQuade, LLC**, or its affiliated entity, with a business address at 4 Liberty Square, Boston, MA 02109, for a period of up to twenty-five (25) years, and to approve said agreement under which **Northbridge McQuade, LLC** or its affiliated entity, will pay the Town a sum of money per year relative to a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately 2.9 megawatts (MW) AC which **Northbridge McQuade, LLC** or its affiliated entity proposes to construct and operate on a 60 acre +/- parcel of land located on the easterly side of McQuade's Lane, Northbridge and further to allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate any necessary amendments to said Tax Agreement; or take any other action relating thereto.

Per the Town Manager this was an article that was recently passed over during the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting. A Public Hearing will be held on this article next week and the article will be placed on the warrant for the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting as a petition article.

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Balmer School Building Project

A tour of the building is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020. It was noted that much landscape type work has been completed on abutter's properties. The landscape work should keep the abutter's satisfied with this overall phase of this project.

Fire Station Project

The Building Committee will be sending out a Request for Quote (RFQ) for a Project Manager over the Building construction. A search will then commence around the hiring process for an Architect. This process will include but is not limited to a baseline survey and design of the foundation. It is projected that it will take approximately six months for work to begin.

Turf Field Project

The turf field project is coming along very well and is 95% - 99% complete as the bleachers and lights have been fully installed.

The Press Box fabrication has been recently approved. Once the Press Box is received it will be installed.

Next Scheduled Meeting

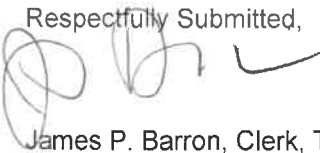
The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:30PM via Zoom. The topics will include:

- Town Manager Update – October 27, 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – vote on positions, if ready.
- Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 07/16/2020
- Other Business

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:04PM was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



James P. Barron, Clerk, Town of Northbridge Finance Committee