

Town of Northbridge  
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 2017 at 6:00PM

**Finance Committee Attendees:**

Finance Committee Members in Attendance: Plato Adams, Jim Barron, Chris Thompson, Jill Meagher, Lisa Ferguson and Steve Gogolinski.

Finance Committee Member not in Attendance: None

**Town of Northbridge Administration and Other Attendees:**

Ted Kozak, Town Manager, Town of Northbridge

Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant - Town of Northbridge

Melissa Walker, Business Manager, Town of Northbridge Public Schools.

**Finance Committee Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman; Plato Adams at 6:00PM.

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 22, 2017 was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Lisa Ferguson and unanimously approved with Chris Pilla abstaining from the vote.

**The Following Articles were discussed:**

**ARTICLE 2 (Board of Selectmen - Article 3 of the 2016 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting - dated May 3, 2016)**

A motion to approve the proposed Article as written in the amount of \$134,500 was made by Chris Thompson seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2016 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 3, 2016), and under Article 2 of the 2016 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 25, 2016), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto. Transfers are anticipated in the total amount of \$134,500 (Total General Government: \$22,000, Total Public Safety: \$35,000, Total Human Services: \$30,000, Total Culture and Recreation: \$7,500).

**ARTICLE 3: (Finance Committee)**

At the Finance Committee Meeting a motion 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

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Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money not to exceed \$41,774,284 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2018, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018; or take any other action relative thereto was made by Jim Barron seconded by Chris Thompson and unanimously approved.

**ARTICLE 4 (Board of Selectmen - Sewer Enterprise Fund)**

A motion to approve the proposed Article as written was made by Chris Thompson seconded by Lisa Ferguson and unanimously approved:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,259,582 from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 5 (Board of Selectmen - Water Enterprise Fund)**

A motion to approve the proposed Article as written was made by Chris Thompson seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund a sum of money in the amount \$1,465,017 to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 8 (Board of Selectmen - (Revolving Funds)**

A motion to approve the proposed Article as written was made by Chris Thompson seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E 1/2, as most recently amended; to amend the general by-laws of the Town by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide Revolving Funds in the Town of Northbridge pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c 44. section 53E 1/2.

**ARTICLE 9 (Board of Selectmen - Compensated Absences Fund)**

A motion to approve the proposed article 9 as noted below was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jill Meagher and unanimously approved. The article is as follows:

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2016 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 3, 2016), and under Article 2 of the 2016 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 25, 2016), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money in the amount of \$25,000 to the Compensated Absences Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 12: (Board of Selectmen)**

A motion to rescind the vote on this proposed Article 12 article at the March 22, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Lisa Ferguson and unanimously approved. The article and vote were as follows: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$39,213 from the Town Building Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal Year 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion to approve the proposed article 12 as written was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jill Meagher and unanimously approved. The article is as follows: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$67,936 from the Town Building Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal Year 2018; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 13: (Board of Selectmen - OPEB)**

At this time, funds have not been certified by the State and thus a motion to approve the proposed pass over of Article 13 as written was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Chris Pilla and unanimously approved:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, a sum of money representing the Funds received in FY 2017 related to the collection of the local restaurant meals tax; said funds to be transferred to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 14: (Board of Selectmen - Healthcare Reimbursement Account)**

A motion to approve the proposed article 14 as written was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved. The article is as follows: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money in the amount \$460,977 from available funds in the Treasury, for the creation of a Healthcare Reimbursement Account to offset medical costs and expenses for employees of the Town of Northbridge and to allow the Town to meet its obligation to the Town's collective bargaining units in exchange for various health insurance plan design changes; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 15: (Board of Selectmen - Stabilization Fund)**

A motion to approve the proposed Article 15 as written was made by Chris Pilla, seconded by Chris Pilla and unanimously approved. The article is as follows: To see if the Town will vote to

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raise and appropriate and/or to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) and/or amend the votes taken under Article 2 of the 2016 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 25, 2016), and under Article 2 of the 2016 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 25, 2016), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money in the amount of \$100,000 to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 17: (Planning Board - Amend Zoning Bylaw)**

A motion to approve the proposed article 17 as written was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jill Meagher and unanimously approved. The article is as follows: To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Chapter 173 Section 173-12 [Table of Use Regulations] by designating "Commercial stables, kennels or veterinary hospital in which all animals, fowl or other forms of life are completely enclosed in pens or other structures" as a use allowed by special permit (s) within the Business-Two (B-2) Zoning District.

**ARTICLE 18: (Planning Board-Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments)**

A motion to approve the proposed article 18 as written was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jill Meagher and unanimously approved. The article seeks to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 173 of the Code of Northbridge, by adding a new Section entitled "Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments" and to further amend the Table of Contents to add a new Section entitled "Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments". This will enable the Town to adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Recreational Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana. The moratorium shall be in effect through November 30, 2018 or until such time as the Town adopts Zoning Bylaw amendments that regulate Recreational Marijuana Establishments, whichever occurs earlier.

**Adjournment**

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jill Meagher and unanimously approved.

**Future Finance Committee Meetings**

The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held on May 2, 2017 at 6:30PM .

Respectfully Submitted,



James P. Barron  
Clerk / Town of Northbridge Finance Committee