

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2016 at 6:00PM

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Finance Committee Attendees:

Finance Committee Members in Attendance: Plato Adams, Bob Brochu, Jim Barron, Chris Thompson and Steve Gogolinski

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
DOREEN L. PEDONE

Finance Committee Member not in Attendance: Lisa Ferguson and Chris Pilla

Town of Northbridge Administration and Other Attendees:

Ted Kozak, Town Manager and Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant - Town of Northbridge

Dr. Catherine Stickney, Superintendent of Schools, Town of Northbridge Public Schools

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

Michael Lebrasseur - Chairperson - Town of Northbridge School Committee

Michael Beaudoin, Chairperson - Building, Planning and Construction Committee (BPCC)

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 30, 2016 was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Chris Thompson and unanimously approved with a minor change as Lisa Ferguson was not in attendance at the meeting. Note that Lisa Ferguson was listed in both categories (In attendance and not in attendance) and the update was made to the March 30, 2016 meeting minutes.

ARTICLE 25: (School Committee)

A motion to approve the proposed Article 25 as written in the amount of \$775,000 and funded with approximately \$350,000 coming from Free Cash and \$425,000 coming from Borrowing was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved

Dr. Catherine Stickney, Superintendent of Schools, Town of Northbridge Public Schools, Melissa Walker, Business Manager and Michael Lebrasseur - Chairperson - Town of Northbridge School Committee discussed a proposal to approve the expenditure in the amount of roughly \$775,000 a feasibility study for the replacement of the W. Edward Balmer Elementary School located at 21 Crescent Street, in Whitinsville, Massachusetts and as further described as parcels 138 (21.04 ac.) & 141 (9.04 ac.) on the Town of

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2016 at 6:00PM

Northbridge Assessors' Map 7. The town would be eligible for a 57% reimbursement of the feasibility study amount of \$775,000 or roughly \$441,750 for a total net outlay of approximately \$333,250.

The article is as follows: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for the costs of a feasibility study relating to the replacement of the W. Edward Balmer Elementary School located at 21 Crescent Street, in Whitinsville, Massachusetts and as further described as parcels 138 (21.04 ac.) & 141 (9.04 ac.) on the Town of Northbridge Assessors' Map 7, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, with the understanding that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: (Building, Planning and Construction Committee BPCC)

A motion to approve the proposed Article 17 as written in an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Bob Brochu and unanimously approved.

Michael Beaudoin and Kevin Soden from the BPCC discussed the proposal to renovate the current DPW facility on Fletcher Street. It appears there will be a metal building with dimensions of 80 X 100 with 6 bay garages. The proposal would be funded by a ten year borrowing at a reasonable interest rate. A project estimate for the DPW Upgrade and New Vehicle Storage Building was handed out with a total dollar estimate of \$2.5 million which includes a project contingency amount of \$320,000. Since the information was recently received, a vote on this article will be taken at a later date.

The proposed article 17 is as follows: 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 a sum of money for the purpose of financing the design and construction of a DPW Building at 11 Fletcher Street, including renovation of the current administration building and garage, permitting, site improvements and soil remediation, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 7(3) and 3(A), as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; to authorize the Board of Selectmen, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, to apply for and accept any forms of financial assistance that may be available to the Town on account of this project from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its Rural Development programs, and in connection therewith to enter into

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2016 at 6:00PM

any necessary agreements with the USDA for a loan, and otherwise to contract with the USDA with respect to any such loan or loans; and to authorize the Building, Planning and Construction Committee to take any action necessary to carry out this construction and renovation project provided, however, that no debt shall be incurred hereunder unless and until the Town first votes to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½, so-called), the amounts required to pay the principal and interest of said debt; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: (Board of Selectmen)

A motion to approve the proposed Article 2 as written was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

The Town Accountant and Town Manager discussed: To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2015 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 5, 2015), and under Article 2 of the 2015 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 27, 2015), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto. Transfers are anticipated as follows:

General Government:

Line 5B: Assessors Expenses by transferring from Line 4B (Town Accountant Expenses) the additional sum of \$1,000.

Public Safety

Police Department

Line 14B: Police Expenses by transferring from Line 14A (Police Personnel) the additional sum of \$20,000.

Fire Department

Line 15A: Fire Personnel by transferring from Line 20B (Veterans Expenses) the additional sum of \$15,000 and by transferring from Line 41 (Employee Insurance Benefits) the additional sum of \$13,350.

Code Enforcement

Line 17B: Code Enforcement Expenses by appropriating from Wages and Measures Account the additional sum of \$500.

Non-Departmental

Line 36: Medicare by transferring from Line 41 (Employee Insurance Benefits) the additional sum of \$15,000.

Total Article 2: \$64,850

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2016 at 6:00PM

ARTICLE 3: (Finance Committee)

On March 30, 2016 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 Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money not to exceed \$40,699,321 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2017, beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Bob Brochu and unanimously approved.

The Article was discussed during the meeting but no change / update was made to the original vote dated March 30, 2016.

ARTICLE 30: (Petition)

A motion to pass over article 30 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 accept the donation of approximately 127 acres of open space land located off of Hill Street and Prospect Street, in and around the subdivision known as "The Hills at Whitinsville"; or take any other action relative thereto.

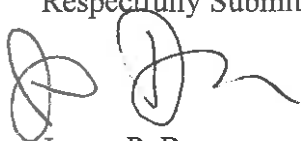
Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on May 3, 2016 at 6:30PM.

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn at 6:58 PM was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by Bob Brochu and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



James P. Barron
Clerk

Town of Northbridge Finance Committee