

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
FINANCE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2016**

The Hamilton Finance & Advisory Committee: Rick Sprenkle, David Wanger, Nick Tensen, Joe Hughes, John Kain present met at the Public Safety Building at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Call to order

Rick Sprenkle called the Finance & Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Public comment

None.

Approve February 13, 2016 and January 30, 2016 minutes

Nick Tensen moved to approve the February 13, 2016 minutes as amended. David Wanger seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-1, Sprenkle abstained since he did not attend.

Wanger moved to approve the January 30, 2016 minutes as amended. Tensen seconded the minutes. VOTE: Unanimous.

Vote remaining warrant articles

Article 2-10: OPEB. Sprenkle entertained a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 2-10. Wanger so moved. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 2-11: Patton Homestead. Wanger moved for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 2-11. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 3-1: Rewrite of Zoning By-law. The Committee discussed how there would be two phases for the zoning by-law changes. Phase II would address whether or not site plan review authority should be with the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals which is raised in the Article 3-3: Citizens' Petition – Site Plan Review to Planning Board.

Wanger moved for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 3-1. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 3-3: Citizens' Petition – Site Plan Review to Planning Board. The Committee reiterated how this will be addressed as part of Phase II of rewrite of the zoning by-law and consultant will provide information on the issue and debate would occur during Phase II on substantive changes.

Discussion was on Town boards that deal with site plan review: elected (Planning Board) versus appointed (Zoning Board of Appeals), and how the appointed board is chosen based on familiarity and expertise with legal issues while the elected board might not have those credentials. Also noted was how the FinCom renders an opinion on financial and other issues impacting the Town. Also mentioned was that the citizen's petition could be rushing a decision on site plan review authority which will be addressed as part of Phase II of the rewrite of the zoning by-law.

Sprenkle entertained a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend unfavorable action on Article 3-3. Wanger so moved. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 4-1: Amend Council on Aging By-law. This is a housekeeping article that does not have financial impact and proposes changes to the COA governing document.

Sprenkle entertained a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 4-1. Wanger so moved. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-1 with Tensen abstaining.

The FinCom may post a meeting for prior to Town Meeting on April 2, 2016 at the HWRHS gymnasium.

Annual report – topic content

The Town's annual reports for 2014 and 2015 are being finalized. An audit presentation will be done at BOS meeting on March 21. The FinCom discussed information from town of Andover regarding healthcare insurance costs, and reviewed comprehensive annual report produced by town of Manchester (that community has a 3% CPA surcharge).

ATM presentation – topic content

The FinCom discussed content for the spring Town Meeting five-minute presentation which will include revenue and expenses as well as notification to the public about OPEB costs associated with HWRSD.

Determine topics/teams for FinCom research

The FinCom mentioned list of proposed areas for incremental savings that was created by Selectman Chair Scott Maddern. Also discussed were topics which the FinCom will research moving forward to understand financial impact:

1. Combining department heads across Hamilton and Wenham:

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(police/fire departments - Wanger, public works - Tensen)

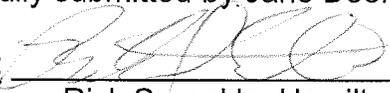
2. Bulk buying amongst Hamilton, Wenham, and HWRSD
3. Healthcare insurance and if any changes can be made with Hamilton, Wenham, and HWRSD
4. Roof at HWRSD (consideration of solar and tie-in to grid)

Also noted was how it could be useful to assess which topics are those where consensus could be reached with other entities. Also mentioned was at recent joint meeting with Wenham FinCom there had been discussion about concept of a facilities manager to assess municipal buildings.

Sprenkle entertained a motion for the FinCom to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Wanger so moved. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST:

 4/13/2016
Rick Sprenkle, Hamilton Finance & Advisory Committee Chairman