

HAMILTON FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

Via Zoom 892 7028 3529

Passcode 454405

April 27, 2021

6:00p.m.

Members Present: John Pruellage, Christina Schenk Hargrove, Nick Tensen and Valerie McCormack.

Others Present: Capital Committee Members: Heather Ford (Chair), Jack Lawrence, Dave Thompson, Bob Woodbury, and Bill Wilson, Dyan Katz, Assistant Town Accountant

The meeting was called to order by John Pruellage at 6:07 p.m. with a quorum established via Zoom.

Roll Call: Valerie McCormack – aye, Nick Tensen – aye, Christina Schenk Hargrove – aye, and John Pruellage – aye. David Wanger joined at 6:20 p.m.

1. Discussion regarding FINCOM's role at ATM, including prepared remarks on certain articles and ATM script

FINCOM reviewed the ATM script and commentary responsibilities for each Article and discussed potential recommendations following motions that would be made.

2. Discussion regarding potential motions at ATM

Mr. Pruellage reported that a citizen email had been forwarded to him that indicated there would potentially be a motion made to separate out the school portion of the budget from Article 2-3. The concern was with the allocation of school funds and the sense that more money should be spent on educators versus administrators. The school would be the one responding unless the issue was one of decreased spending in the schools in which case, FINCOM would respond.

3. Review and approval of available minutes

FINCOM discussed and amended the February 9, 2021 minutes. It was noted that the Patton tennis courts were not jointly used with Wenham on #3 and on #5, Gary Cheeseman was the Wenham Selectperson that was referenced.

Motion made by Christina Schenk Hargrove to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as amended.

Seconded by Valerie McCormack.

Roll Call Vote: Valerie McCormack – aye, Nick Tensen – aye, Dave Wanger – aye, Christina Schenk Hargrove – aye, and John Pruellage – aye.
Unanimous in favor of voting members.

4. Joint Discussion with CAPCOM regarding ATM and future spending projects

Motion made by Heather Ford, Chair of the Capital Committee to call the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Seconded by Bob Woodbury.

Roll Call Vote: Heather Ford – aye, Dave Thompson – aye, Jack Lawrence – aye, Dave Thompson - aye, Bob Woodbury - aye, and Bill Wilson – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Members agreed that Ms. Schenk Hargrove would formally make the motion on 2-4 and would lead the discussion after it was seconded.

Mr. Pruellage explained that the library roof would come in the form of an assessment so it would be in the budget line item. Both Committees agreed that if both towns did not vote on the library roof being replaced it would be carried over to the next town meeting.

FINCOM and CAPCOM discussed the classification of funds and agreed that the title for the Capital Expenditures Article should be made more understandable as it refers to only the capital expenditures that use free cash.

Questions were raised about the classification of the squad truck and the planer attachment found in Schedule D in the Warrant. Dyan Katz explained that the squad truck was a lease purchase and was part of the budget for \$39,645 and that the planer attachment was not part of the budget because it would be funded through Chapter 90 if approved, or not purchased at all.

Both Committees discussed the Town Hall spend and future competing priorities with regard to the schools and water supply and agreed that residents need to be made aware of those future expenses. The Committees discussed the importance of the Master Plan to address the priorities and agreed that future new development and new growth would be needed to offset the anticipated expenses. It was agreed that both Committees would benefit from future joint meetings to discuss long term school and water expenses and how to fund them.

Capital Committee Adjournment

Motion made by Heather Ford to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Seconded by Dave Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: Heather Ford – aye, Dave Thompson – aye, Jack Lawrence – aye, Dave Thompson - aye, Bob Woodbury - aye, and Bill Wilson – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Mr. Pruellage shared that Dyan Katz pointed out an error in the Compensation Table and a change was made that would be handed out at the Town Meeting to show the correction that the Patton Homestead Director hours were reduced from 37.5 hours to 25 hours.

5. Discussion regarding composition of FINCOM membership

FINCOM discussed the need to replace Valerie McCormack who would be moving in mid-June. Mr. Pruellage and Ms. Schenk Hargrove would remain on the Committee until 2022 and Mr. Wanger and Mr. Tensen would serve until 2023. FINCOM agreed that at least one associate member would be needed and an announcement would be made through the Board of Selectmen, ATM, and Hamilton's Facebook page.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Nick Tensen at 8:10 p.m.

Seconded by Dave Wanger.

Roll Call Vote: Valerie McCormack – aye, Nick Tensen – aye, Dave Wanger – aye, Christina Schenk Hargrove – aye, and John Pruellage – aye.

Unanimous in favor of voting members.

Documents:

1. ATM Script
2. February 9, 2021 minutes

Prepared by:

Ann Schlecht

4/30/2021

Attest

