

**Spencer Finance Committee
September 19, 2017, 7:00 PM
Spencer Town Hall, Conference Room A
Minutes**

Call meeting to order: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Tom Parker, Paul Bouvier, Bill Wall, Nancy Tame, Kerry Keefe, Chris Woodbury & Chris Bowen William Ross, Interim Town Manager; Bill Shemeth, ex-officio

No one noted as participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Minutes of August 15, 2017 Finance Committee meeting

Motion to accept: Chris Woodbury

Second: Paul Mc Laughlin

Approved: Unanimous

Mary Braney introduce Interim Town Administrator William Ross

Interim Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Ross spoke about his past experience as a town administrator and the manner and resources he would utilize in which to be able to manage the town's government and to provide a seamless transition, while maintaining the town's day-to-day operation.

Correspondence

a) Via email from Adam Gaudette re: Fall Special Town Meeting November 16; Calendar & Draft warrant

MMA Annual Meeting Saturday, October 21, 2017 Franklin, MA
MMA Legislative Breakfasts (forwarded email) Auburn Town Hall, Friday, September 29, 2017 8-10 AM

The Beacon

Vision/Mission initiative

Subcommittee reports:

- Focus group subcommittee: Mary Braney, Kerry Keefe and Bill Shemeth

Reported that the subcommittee had met with six groups who participated in the S.O.A.R. & IMNO exercise. Next

meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 6:00p.m. to be held at Knox Trail Jr. High and Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to be held at Gaudette-Kirk Post American Legion.

- Survey subcommittee: Chris Woodbury stated that the survey had been completed & submitted to Mary Braney to be formulated and returned back to committee when finished.

- 2003 Master Plan review

Paul Bouvier reported that the recurring theme with the *2003 Master Plan* was the need to improve the town's infrastructure so as to attract new/more business; implement economic development. Also noted was the need for a town common area.

Discussion & Comments by committee members

Liaison Reports

SEBRSC:

Committee met September 21, 2017; Bill Shemeth reported that Jodi Bourassa moved from Acting Superintendent, for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, to being named the Interim Superintendent, until which time a new permanent superintendent is hired; Ms. Bourassa remains the Principal at Knox Trail Jr. High; Discussed the repairs & renovations of all the buildings; Open House September 30, 2017 to promote the new innovation lab which is almost ready at David Prouty High; new software for electronic record keeping; a phone system upgrade slated for the entire school district (safety issues noted as major concern); Continue to formulate & discuss Master Plan, prior to spending funds, to renovate the high school.

Discussion, questions & comments by committee members

Landfill Solar Advisory Committee:

Paul Bouvier stated that there was no new information since last meeting, where former Town Administrator, Adam Gaudette was in attendance; proposal for the project was out for bid and 70 companies have responded.

Discussion with regard to Spencer becoming a "Green Community" and what process the town would need to take in order to become a "Green Community."

Discussion, questions & comments by committee members

TASC (Town Administrator Search Committee):

Mary Braney, Nancy Herholz, Chris Woodbury
Chris Woodbury & Nancy Herholz reported that the committee met September 14, 2017, to organize & vote Chairman, Vice Chairman & Secretary. The committee met with the Board of Selectmen September 18, 2017 in order to obtain direction as to how the selectmen wished for the committee to proceed.

Discussion, questions & comments by committee members

Building & Property Reuse Committee: Chris Bowen stated that the committee had not met as a group since the last Finance Committee Meeting but some members of the committee did go the selectmen's meeting to present the group's thoughts and recommendations.

Any other

Motion to approve July 18, 2017 Minutes as written

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Chris Woodbury

Approved: Unanimous

Paul Bouvier related that for the past five weeks he'd been attending the Citizen's Fire Academy; conveyed the positive feedback from those in attendance, with regard to the fire departments presentation and hands-on education.

Fire Department is holding an open house October 15, 2017

Adjourn: 8:29 p.m.

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Tom Parker

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted;
Nancy E, Herholz

Next regular Finance Committee meeting October 17, 2017
(tentative)

Note: November meeting will be held on November 14 to prepare for Fall Town Meeting on November 16.

Next Focus Group subcommittee meeting TBD

Next Survey subcommittee meeting TBD

Focus Group - Parents, Teachers, Students Thursday,
September 21, 6 PM, Knox Trail Cafeteria

Veterans Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 PM Gaudette-Kirk Post
American Legion, Main St