

Spencer Finance Committee
January 16, 2018, 7:00 PM
Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main Street,
Spencer, MA 01562 Conference Room A

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Paul Bouvier, Chris Bowen, Bill Wall, Tom Parker & Nancy Tame

Bill Ross, Interim Town Administrator; Bill Shemeth, Ex Officio

Member(s) that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law: Mary Braney, Chair

Minutes of November 14, 2017 Finance Committee joint meeting with Board of Selectmen and November 29 joint meeting with SEBRSD and others.

Motion to approve Minutes as written: Tom Parker

Second: Paul Bouvier

Approved: Unanimous

Correspondence : None

Interim Town Administrator's Report – Initial FY2019 Budget Presentation & *Financial Policy Manual>Community Compact Cabinet*

Bill Ross reported that the budget documents had gone out to departments, and having been completed by department head, are being returned for review & discussion. Mr. Ross stated that budgets need to be level funded and wish to have needs prioritized and returned to town administrator by January 24th.

Mr. Ross noted that the Board of Selectmen will be interviewing the four (4) finalists for the permanent town administrators position January 22nd and 23rd.

Bill spoke about the *Financial Policy Manual>Community Compact Cabinet*, “which strives to create clear mutual standards, expectations and accountability” in order to guide and provide direction, resources and points which Bill felt were worthy of consideration/further discussion by the finance committee.

Discussion, questions and comments

Vision/Mission initiative Survey raw data report: Mary Braney

Reported that there had been 228 responses to the survey, which included summaries of the questions, data trend and individual responses. Also included but not factored into the “Data Trend” were the results of the question posed for one’s personal vision, looking ahead 5-10 years.

Liaison Reports

a) SEBRSC – Mary Braney

Related the presentation by Steve Henen, from the Mass Association of Regional Schools, with regard to the procedure for amending the current Regional Agreement; the school committee convened a review committee consisting of three (3) school committee members, one (1) member each from Spencer & East Brookfield Board of Selectmen & Finance Committees, and two (2) at-large members. Mary volunteered to serve, representing Spencer’s finance committee. Also mentioned was the news presentation done by the Wire Village students and Jay Monette's presentation, at the end, correcting fake news on social websites.

The December 12, 2017, meeting can be seen, via Spencer Cable Access, in its entirety

b) Landfill Solar Advisory Committee – Paul Bouvier

Reported that the committee had chosen “Citizens Energy Group” to begin construction, which is to start this year; the project is stated to generate an annual income of \$284,000 for the next 20 years.

c) TASC (Town Administrator Search Committee) Nancy Herholz

Final meeting of the TASC was January 9, 2018; joint meeting was held with BoS; Four candidates (finalists) were recommended for further vetting by the Board of Selectmen.

Any other: no further business

Adjourn : 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Bill Wall

Second: Tom Parker

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy E. Herholz

Next regular Finance Committee meeting February 20, 2018