

Spencer Finance Committee  
April 10, 2018 7:00 PM  
Spencer Town Hall  
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA  
Conference Room A  
Minutes

**Call meeting to order** : 7:05 p.m.

**Members present**: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Tom Parker, Paul Bouvier, Bill Wall, Chris Bowen, Chris Woodbury & Nancy Tame ( 7:07)

Thomas Gregory, Town Administrator; William Shemeth, Ex Officio

**Announcement**:

No members are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

**Minutes of March 20, 26 & 27, 2018 meeting(s)**

Motion to accept as written: Chris Woodbury

Second: Tom Parker

Approved: Unanimous

**Open Public Hearing: 7:06 p.m. FY 2019 Budget**

Mr. Shemeth reiterated the work, progress and results made by the Focus Group, stating that progress continues to improve town services.

Town Administrator commenced the review and explanation of the Warrant Articles for the May 3, 2018 Annual Town Meeting

Citizen input:

Question, comment(s) and positive interest with regard to the solar project (Article(s) 27 & 28) and expressing that he hoped to find out more.

**Correspondence** : None

**Liaison Reports**

a) **Economic Management Committee** (Chris Woodbury): did not attend meeting but reported that he had read the committee's minutes and the committee was exploring the opportunity to apply for available grants for further development of the downtown area.

b) **SEBRSC** (Mary Braney) : Attended a meeting in which the school committee (having previously met with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee) submitted their FY2019

budget, which was \$19,000.00 more than the Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee anticipated. School committee members reviewed, defined and reallocated funds, prioritizing the most important needs for their budget; such as, the cost for employee health insurance was lowered by a savings through a larger deductible and a reduced the amount, previously budgeted, for the legal expense line item were two of the area(s) where the school committee was able to trim expenses. The town administrator reworked accounts (on the town side) in order to fund \$19,000.00 needed for the school district budget.

Also discussed was to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund; to be voted on at the annual town meeting May 3, 2018.

Discussion, questions and comments by committee members

C) **CIPC** (Nancy Herholz): Reported that the committee met Monday, April 9, 2018 and voted to approve and make their recommendations to the town administrator (listed on the Warrant, Article#26)

**Reserve Fund Transfer Request** of \$8,500 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund Account #11132-56000 to the Library Purchase of Services Account #11610-52000 for Extraordinary and Unforeseen Expenses (new boiler) in Accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 6

Motion to accept request as written: Tom Parker

Second: Chris Woodbury

Approved: Unanimous

#### **Town Administrator**

Mr. Gregory reported that the FY2019 budget is balanced; the FY2019 Warrant was closed by the Board of Selectmen April 9, 2018.

Warrant Articles review and explanation

Discussion, comments & questions by committee members

#### **Vote Recommendations on Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

See attachment with recommendation(s) and vote(s)

**Any other** : Mr. Shemeth discussed the steps being taken for Spencer, by the Board of Selectmen, to become a “Green Community” and stated that the Board wanted more time to consider and further discuss being designated a “Green Community.”

Mr. Gregory stated that *Central Mass Regional Planning Commission* has offered the Town of Spencer \$7,500.00 in assistance to apply for “Green Community” status, but mentioned that the town needs to satisfy certain criteria in order to be considered.; Spencer’s estimated grant amount is \$155,000, when “Green Community” status designation is obtained.. Also, Spencer becomes

eligible to approximately \$240,000.00 in competitive, state-wide energy efficiency initiatives, once designated as a “Green Community.” More information to come when obtained and will be presented at public informational meetings.

Chris Woodbury let the committee & viewers know that there is the high school students artwork on display in the town hall.

**Motion to close Public Hearing at 9:15 p.m.:** Chris Woodbury

Second: Tom Parker

Approved: Unanimous

**Adjourn: 9:20 p.m.**

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Chris Woodbury

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy E Herholz*

May 3, 2018: Annual Town Meeting

May 8, 2018: Town Elections

Finance Committee Meeting(s) can be seen in entirety via *Spencer Cable Access*