

Spencer Finance Committee
April 11, 2017 7:00 PM
McCourt Social Hall
Minutes

1) Call meeting to order 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Tom Parker, Paul Bouvier, Bill Wall, Chris Bowen & Robbin Joyce.

Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator & Bill Shemeth, Ex Officio

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

2) Minutes of (1) February 28, (2) March 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2017 meetings (1) Motion to approve as written: Bill Wall
Second: Tom Parker
Approved: Unanimous

(2) Motion to approve as written: Paul McLaughlin
Second: Paul Bouvier
Approved: Unanimous

3) Public Hearing: FY 2018 Budget

Open Public Hearing: 7:05 p.m.

No attendee(s) from the town

Public hearing closed: 8:00 p.m.

Motion to close: Paul McLaughlin
Second: Chris Bowen
Approved: Unanimous

4) Correspondence

Correspondence previously sent via email to committee members

5) Liaison Reports

a) Financial Management Planning Committee: Adam Gaudette reported a grant had been applied for in order to seek assistance to set up financial plans for the Town of Spencer.

b) SEBRSC: Bill Shemeth reported that Committee and Sub Committee decided not to proceed to seek funding for renovation at David Prouty High School. Will consider a debt exclusion to fund renovation project at Prouty. School Committee listen to a presentation from "M.A.R.S." (Mass Association of Regional Schools) with regard to the disbandment and impact if East Brookfield decides to withdraw from the district.

c) Building & Property Reuse Advisory Committee: Adam Gaudette reported that no meetings have been scheduled; studies are in progress for the various sites being considered.

d) Landfill Solar Advisory Committee: Robbin Joyce reported that no meeting had been held.

6) Joint School Committee, BoS, Fincom meetings

Mary Braney reported that there was mainly general conversation about the budget and seeks to continue striving for open lines of communication between all parties.

7) Regional dispatch center

Adam Gaudette reported that a feasibility study was ongoing in order to create a Charter to form a District (initially) consisting of the town(s) Oxford, Charlton, Sturbridge, Spencer & Southbridge. The study includes consideration for the structure & design, geographics, funding, staffing and training. Other incentive is the State to provide funding when regionalized

Discussion, questions and comments by committee

8) Town Administrator

Adam Gaudette summarized the finalization of the budget process and the adjustments made in order to balance the revenue(s) and expense(s)

Discussed was the options considered to add staffing and increase hours where necessary

Board of Selectmen set and closed the FY 2018 budget

Discussion, questions and comments by committee

9) Action Item: Vote Recommendations on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

See Chart for vote & recommendation(s)

10) Any other

Mary Braney discussed the need to meet during the Summer to set up a vision/plan to create support and approval from the town for reinstatement of essential services that have been cut due to budget constraints. The desire for these meetings is to inform and educate town residents in order to promote enthusiasm to move the town forward and continue restoring service.

11) Adjourn 9:05 p.m.

Motion made: Nancy Herholz

Second: Paul Bouvier

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E Herholz

Finance Committee meeting schedule

May 4, 2017: Annual Town Meeting

May 9, 2017: Town Elections

May 23, 2017: Finance Committee Meeting