

Spencer Finance Committee
April 1, 2014
Minutes

Call meeting to order: 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, clerk, John Desmarais, Robbin Joyce, Julie Parenteau, Bill Wall, Chris Bowen, Chris Kandel & Nancy Tame (7:20 p.m.)
Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator

Public Hearing

Motion to open public hearing: Chris Kandel

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approve: Unanimous

The following from the public presented concerns & comments with regard to the town's current fiscal situation:

William Shemeth, Co-chair, Spencer Parks & Recreation

Carol McPherson, Personnel Board

James Whalen, Chair, Planning Board

Motion to close public hearing: Chris Bowen

Second: John Desmarais

Approve: Unanimous

Minutes:

Approval of March 25, 2014 Minutes:

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approve: 9 approve; 1 abstain

March 24, 2014 Minutes to be reviewed/approved at April 8, 2014 FinCom meeting

Correspondence:

None

Liaison Report:

SEBRSC:

Julie Parenteau reported that items discussed were the retiree health insurance...school board voted to drop GIC health plan and seek other affordable plans...when asked for

a figure (educated guess) to the potential savings, no one would or could answer; to go forward with the review to close Lake Street & the probable impact...proposed \$400,000 savings; to hold public hearing for residents input.

Questions, comments & concerns by committee members

Review FY2015 Budget Update: Adam Gaudette provided an update of the town's FY2015 budget (revenue & expenses); restated the amount to be raised by Real & Personal Property taxes; estimated receipts & other revenue from the State; local estimated receipts and available fund transfers to fund Capital project; reviewed the Articles of the "draft" Warrant.

Additional discussion with regard to a pending 2 ½ override to fund the town; school committee is requesting that the override include the school district funding needs, which the selectmen said no to combining town & district override request; anxiety expressed by town manager as to the outcome if the override does not pass.

Questions, comments, concerns & extensive discussion by committee members

Any Further Business:

Petition, with registered voters signatures & letter, to be submitted to the Spencer Town Clerk for signature authentication, with request to the Board of Selectmen that the following article be placed on the Spencer, MA May 1, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: To see if the Town of Spencer will vote to accept G.L. c. 64L, § 2(a) to impose a local meals excise.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:40 p.m.

Motion: Julie Parenteau

Second: John Desmarais

Approved: Unanimous

*April 8, 2014 (Special): Vote Recommendations on Annual Town Meeting Warrant 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy E. Herholz