



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2018 MEETING

Present: Chairman Alan Germain, Kathryn Bandzul, Vice Chairman, William Duggan, George Callahan, John Cotter, Jr. and Town Administrator Michael Milanoski. Joseph Patten was absent. Also present: Marianne MacLeod, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Germain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Belbin came before the Committee. He wanted to discuss petition items on the agenda tonight with regards to non-profits. He checked the by-laws regarding these requests. He feels the town meeting members can make good financial decisions and this is where it should be done. Mr. Germain explained the purpose of the Finance Committee discussing this item is to bring it to town meeting. Finance Committee has no authority to change this, such as establishing groundwork and putting a cap on grant program requests and to make the process a little bit easier. Currently it takes 10 signatures and a quick paragraph to get on the town warrant. Mr. Belbin agrees a vetting process is necessary.

Removing from the table for discussion and possible vote on the FC supporting to Town Meeting MGL Chapter 40, Section 22F. The town fixing reasonable fees, specifically supporting raising the MLC fee to \$50.00 from \$25.00 as discussed at the November 8th meeting as presented by Lori Henault, Treasurer Tax Collector.

Ms. Henault came before the Committee tonight. Mr. Germain gave a background of the discussion at the last meeting. A law needs to be adopted at town meeting and she is looking to have the Finance Committee support. It would give authority to the Board of Selectmen to approve increase in fees. Ms. Henault gave a quick overview of her request. She again reviewed the process when a MLC is requested. Mr. Milanoski stated we could include that all fees would have to go before the Board of Selectmen. He said they could have a draft article at the next meeting.

Mr. Cotter made a Motion to continue this to the next meeting, seconded by Ms. Bandzul, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

A continuation of discussion from November 8th meeting and possible vote on supporting to Town Meeting a grant agreement program for tax payer funding to non-profit organizations

in compliance with MGL c. 30B, "Grant agreement", and to establish "terms" for the use of funds.

Mr. Milanoski explained the current system for grant requests. They have now been combined in one citizen petition article. Each year the total amount of requests goes up. He is asking the Finance Committee if a certain amount should be put aside or should there be better accountability for the groups receiving funds. Mr. Germain said he feels there should be a cap amount, have terms of the grant and the selectmen could review and then take it to town meeting for approval. He is concerned that the future may bring more requests, increasing the amount given from the town. A new policy could set parameters in the future. Right now is the time to discuss this rather than having it discussed on town meeting floor. Mr. Duggan said he feels townspeople can give to whoever they wish. He also would like to see a cap. Ms. Bandzul likes the idea of having a cap and a grant program. Mr. Cotter asked what the process would be? Mr. Milanoski said he would have the applications completed in May. Right after town meeting the process for the 2020 grant program for non-profit would begin. The first year, it would only be the five programs that came before April town meeting. Mr. Germain asked how this year's money would be given out? Mr. Milanoski explained the \$23,000 currently requested would be given out to the five current grant requests. These requests are for FY2020. A requirement of the grant would be that recipients would need to come back and let the town know how they used the grant money. Mr. Germain wants a requirement be that the grants directly benefit the Town of Carver in some part. Mr. Milanoski said every year this would come before the town meeting, including reporting where the money went and how it was used. Mr. Callahan asked if it is fair to change the process at town meeting and make the grant requestors re-apply. Mr. Milanoski said the warrant can state that these five groups will be pre-approved. Mr. Cotter asked what if more requests come in now? Mr. Germain explained it is past the deadline now. Mr. Callahan asked if the cap would be \$25,000. Mr. Milanoski suggested it be \$23,000 and town meeting would have to approve this each year.

Public Comment:

Mr. Belbin asked for a limitation on each grant request. He also suggested a roll call vote and whoever gets the most votes at town meeting will get that amount and the low man is kicked out. Mr. Germain said that is up to the moderator. Mr. Germain explained this not trying to take away power at town meeting. Mr. Belbin explained he is concerned that the Finance Committee might only allow certain groups get the money and others may not. Mr. Milanoski explained the request to town meeting is really to delegate that responsibility to the Finance Committee. Town meeting has said we think the Finance Committee is better equipped to handle this than do a roll call vote at town meeting. Meg LaMay, Finance Director for the town explained that the tax payer dollars have to help residents of Carver only.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to support putting a grant together for town meeting as described tonight, seconded by Mr. Callahan, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

A discussion and possible vote on supporting to Town Meeting a DOE Green Communities and stretch code for Carver and the potential grant funding available.

Mr. Milanoski explained the Green Communities Act has been adopted by over three quarters of the State. This provides \$200mil in grants per year to communities. Carver's estimate would be \$155,000 per year as part of this grant program. This has gone before town meeting several times in the past. The building code has turned into a stretch building code now. Mr. Milanoski would like to have the Finance Committee meet with Seth Pickering and discuss this further. There have been several changes, mostly geared towards new houses/commercial buildings. Mr. Milanoski feels this is a good opportunity for the town and he would like the Finance Committee to review this program for the opportunity for the town to receive the grants. Mr. Germain said he would like to hear more information about this program. Mr. Cotter feels the town should participate in this program.

Read and approve minutes of September 13, October 11, and November 8, 2018 meetings.

Mr. Cotter made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 13, 2018 meeting, with one correction in the spelling of Ms. Bandzul's first name, seconded by Mr. Callahan, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting with the correction in the spelling of Ms. Bandzul's first name, seconded by Mr. Callahan, voted and passed unanimously.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to approve the minutes of 11/8/18, seconded by GC, voted and passed unanimously.

Future Meeting Date: January 3, 2019

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cotter, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne MacLeod,
Recording Secretary

Attachments: