



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2022, MEETING

Present: Chairman Alan Germain, Vice-Chairman Adam Holmes: Bill Cullum, Ron Clarke, Walter Cole, Tony Macrina, Patrick Meagher, and Elizabeth Sulger.

Joint session with select board: Chairman Mark Townsend, Vice-Chair Sarah Hewins: Robert Belbin, Jennifer Bogart, and James Hoffman.

Also Present: Bob Fennessy and Recording Secretary Ashley Swartz.

Mr. Germain opened the meeting at 6:31 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Germain then asked if there were any public comments and heard none.

Meeting will be recorded by Area 58

Article Two – Supplemental Appropriations for FY 22 - no numbers but motioned to put the article on the warrant. Motion made by Ms. Hewins, seconded by Mr. Belbin, approved unanimously. Mr. Germain explained that this is for last minute numbers which usually are available the day of town meeting – the Finance Committee meets prior to the Town Meeting.

Article Three – Allocation of Funds from FY22 Free Cash - \$1,024,006 for: (a) Fund Health Mitigation Fund, (b) North Carver Water District for well and infrastructure debt FY22, (c) Landfill Monitoring, (d) Replenish Stabilization Fund, (e) Fund Compensated Absences, (f) Fund OPEB, (g) Capital Maintenance, (h) Emergency Radio Maintenance – approved unanimously by Select Board. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Meagher.

Mr. Holmes asked for clarification as to what the FinCom was voting on. Mr. Germain clarified it was just the amount being approved. Ms. Sulger asked if these are current numbers- they are as of Friday. Her concern is that she thinks the amount isn't accurate.

Mr. Germain asked for the motion to be withdrawn to make sure the numbers were correct. This wasn't brought to Finance Committee previously, so Mr. Townsend asked for a recommendation by April 5th (their next meeting).

Mr. Clarke asked about the North Carver Water District – there is \$500,000 in their account and asked why they are not paying for their item themselves. Motion to table discussion made by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Holmes. Mr. Holmes asked if Kevin could come from the North Carver Water District. Approved unanimously, 8-0-0. The maintenance fund was questioned by Mr. Belbin and Ms. Sulger explained that it is funded annually. Mr. Belbin also asked about the radio

maintenance since there was an upgrade budgeted. Mr. Germain clarified that this is for one off problems like a radio breaking.

Article Four – FY23 Operating Budgets for Town and Enterprise Funds; Funding for OPEB Trust and Stabilization Funds - Mr. Germain said he is thrilled the health insurance was moved above the line and taken out of the school budget. He noted the amount of time that was taken to reorganize this. The health insurance is coming in 3% lower than anticipated. Motion moved and seconded to put the article on the warrant – this was approved unanimously by the Select Board. Ms. Hewins reiterated her appreciation for upgrading the Veterans and COA services. Mr. Townsend echoed this and attributed it to the cooperation between departments. Mr. Clarke asked if this was the budget that was approved last meeting – it is. Mr. Germain continued that he thinks there needs to be additional drill down in regard to the North Carver funds.

Motion to approve article four as printed made by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously, 8-0-0.

Mr. Belbin made a motion to recommend Article 4A and B – seconded by Ms. Hewins, approved unanimously, 5-0-0.

Article Five – Capital Improvements Budget - Mr. Germain requested this be tabled
Motion to table made by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 8-0-0.

Article Seven – Community Preservation Committee Report and Recommendations. Motion made and seconded to put the article on the warrant. Approved unanimously by the Select Board 5-0-0. Motion made by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Clarke, approved unanimously 8-0-0.

Article 27 – Finance Committee Bylaw Change - Mr. Belbin put forward this article that includes changes impacting the Finance Committee. The items added (a) must be residents of Carver and (b) exceptions to the committee is anyone who has a member of their household or an immediate family member that is an employee of the town or holds a position of financial responsibility. Mr. Germain expressed his concern with this by-law. There was an example given regarding Mr. Meagher and he had to be a registered voter (when he first became a committee member). There was also a stipend for Financial Commission members but the “shall serve without pay” has never been removed.

He continued to state that the Finance Committee is an advisory board – and there should not be an exclusion for members who have a town employee in their household. He explained the first person lost would be Ms. Sulger and she never has voted on the Fire Department budget because her husband works part time for the fire department. He further explained the other boards the Finance Committee members sit on and how exceptions will have to be made and there is difficulty getting volunteers for these boards as it is. Mr. Clark asked for further clarification regarding the intent of the bylaw.

Ms. Hewins expressed the line in question applies to town meetings. There was further discussion about how this was worded and what it meant.

Mr. Holmes said he agrees with Mr. Clarke is saying – would like to know the intent behind the bylaw, and better understand what the bylaw should be. He said it currently is too ambiguous – he doesn't think how it is written is really what they mean. He agrees that it should either state that Finance Committee members cannot sit on other boards, or those members need to recuse

themselves from votes that are a conflict of interest. Mr. Townsend agrees with the points being made and thinks they should consult counsel on the wording.

Mr. Germain noted the language around "employee" and that there are W-2s. Mr. Belbin asked if it was better to pull this whole thing and start from scratch – Mr. Germain said there should be simple language – Mr. Townsend asked Mr. Belbin if he wanted to pull this – He agreed that they would pull for a later discussion.

Ms. Hewins suggested a time where they all meet with Town Consul to straighten this out in one meeting.

Mr. Belbin made a motion to remove this article, seconded by Ms. Hewins, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Next meeting: Monday, March 28 with Capital Outlay at 6:30.

Motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting, made by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 8-0-0.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Swartz.

Voted & Approved