

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2007

Those Present: Al DeVito - chair, Sharon Estrella, Richard Knabel, Skip Manter and Brian Athearn.

Guests: Jennifer Rand, Executive Secretary; Chuck Hodgkinson and Kathy Logue, Space Needs Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. I began taking minutes at 4:30.

Tonight's meeting continues the review of warrant articles requiring recommendation by the FinCom.

Article 25:

Richard wanted it noted that he opposed this article because he feels all the abutters should be contacted before this project is proposed.

Article 35:

Richard would prefer the money come from free cash.

Article 37:

Sharon would prefer the position be filled at 40 hours a week, not 30.

Article 38:

Article 38 asks the voters to form a building committee, appointed by the Selectmen, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for planning related fees to develop plans for a Town Hall Building to the level of construction drawings and bid documents. Mr. Hodgkinson informed the FinCom that the Space Needs Committee would be making a recommendation to the voters to renovate the present Town Hall as opposed to constructing a new building at the end of Lambert's Cove Rd. He noted that there had been considerable support for this recommendation from those present at the three public forums the committee had held. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of renovation vs. new construction, including the concern for having a green building. Richard pointed out that it is significantly easier to design a green building as a new construct than it is to retrofit an existing building. Sharon was not comfortable with the Space Needs Committee making a recommendation that she felt the (yet to be appointed) Building Committee should be making. She would like the voters to have more options. Mr. Hodgkinson explained that his committee had considered other properties owned by the town, but in the end felt that the Lambert's Cove site was the only viable site for a new building. There will be another public forum on Wednesday, April 4 at 4:00 pm at the Public Safety Building. A motion was made and seconded to recommend Article 38. The motion passed 4-1, Sharon Estrella opposing.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk