**Minutes of the Finance Committee October 24, 2018**

Members attending: Mr. Fenton (Chairman), Ms. Herron, Ms. Lennon, Mr. Linton, and Mr. Runstrom

Members not attending: Mr. Love

Additional Attendees: Peter Bogren (Selectman), Carol Riches (Town Administrator).

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

Motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting made by Ms. Herron, seconded by Ms.Lennon.   
Approved unanimously.

Consider Budget Articles for Special Town Meeting

**Article 1:** Capital Depreciation. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Discussion:   
Mr. Fenton: Earlier we voted for 5% of Free Cash to go to each of the 3 accounts. This article adds an additional 100,000 to go into the Capital Account. Ms. Herron: Why not put it into stabilization. If it’s in Stabilization, it can be used for anything… including capital. Mr. Bogren: We felt it made most sense here because we’re doing a lot of short term borrowing. We should be able to fund small things out of capital. For example, the senior van 20k this year we needed to borrow for. Mr. Fenton: Where did this money come from? Ms. Riches: We have more money because of more money from the state, new growth, and state land.  
Approved unanimously.

**Article 2:** OPEB Account. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Discussion:  
Mr. Runstrom: We owe $1.5M or something. Is it just going to sit there and do nothing? What’s the point? Mr. Bogren: It’s a start towards what we owe. Mr. Runstrom read a letter from Mr. Love stating his opposition to the article (letter attached).  
Vote: Motion is approved by a vote of 4-1. Mr. Runstrom opposed.

**Article 3:**  Stabilization. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
The current balance of the Stabilization fund is just under $400k.  
Approved unanimously.  
  
**Article 4:** Storm Water Consultant. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Approved unanimously.

**Article 5:** Town Hall Repairs. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Approved unanimously.

**Article 6:** Holden Rd Easements. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
This article requires a 2/3 majority to pass.  
Approved unanimously.

**Article 7:** Marijuana Moratorium. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Discussion:  
This article requires a 2/3 majority to pass.  
Mr. Fenton: Why are we doing this? Mr. Bogren: Planning board still considering this issue, needs an extension. Mr. Runstrom: I understand this issue makes people uncomfortable and most don’t want to talk about it, but I don’t think we need this ban. We already have 2 liquor stores in town. I don’t see much difference between Marijuana and alcohol. Plus, allowing it could potentially bring in considerable revenue to town.   
Vote: Motion is approved by a vote of 4-1. Mr. Runstrom opposed.

**Article 8:** Sale of land. Motion to recommend Approval made by Mr. Runstrom and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
This article requires a 2/3 majority to pass.  
Approved unanimously.

**Article 9:** Money to sell the land. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Mr. Linton.   
Approved unanimously.

**Article 10:** Appoint Deputy Town Clerk. Motion to recommend Approval made by Ms. Herron and seconded by Ms. Lennon.   
Approved unanimously.

Discuss letter to WRSD drafted by Holden

Rich: We had a meeting last month called by Holden. They wanted towns to collaborate on a letter to the district to describe what we want. This included a 3.5% increase in operational spending, etc. At the meeting, Rutland and Paxton voted to abstain. Rich felt that it was too early in the budget year to know if a 3.5% increase is acceptable or not. Looking at the 20 year trend, there are many years over a 3.5% increase, but some years are less. If we need less this year, we’ll be in trouble if we’ve asked for 3.5%. Peter: I don’t like setting a number at all. I don’t think Selectboards and Fincoms should be setting the school budget. I also was not happy that WRSD was not invited to the meeting. I feel like this process is just going to lead to more animosity. I also think it’s kind of ridiculous that they want to look at the budget line items. We really need to know how many paper clips they’re buying?

The Finance Committee took the following votes to express our opinion on the letter:

3.5% increase limit in school budget – 0 yes, 5 no. Disapprove.

Line-item budget – 0 yes, 5 no. Disapprove.

OPEB – 0 yes, 5 no. Disapprove.

5-year capital plan – 5 yes, 0 no. Approve.

5 year educational goals – 5 yes, 0 no. Approve.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Runstrom, Secretary.