

Accepted: 5/2/2015

Voted: 3-0-0

MEETING MINUTES OF ASHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 23rd, 2015

Members Present: Ted Murray (Chair), Ricki Carroll, David Newell, Tom Schreiber,

Absent: Janet Rogers

Ted called the meeting to order at app. 7:04 PM in the Town Hall Committee Room

1. Minutes:

The minutes of April 6th were read, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept as written. 4-0-0 (See Doc. 2)

The minutes of April 22nd were read, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the amended version. 4-0-0 (See Doc. 3)

2. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: (See Doc. 4)

Article 1: Not applicable to the Finance Committee.

Article 2-5: Were moved and seconded and the votes were unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0

Article 6: Was moved and seconded with a change in the Vocational number to \$490,313.00 from \$519,000.00, the vote was unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0

Article 7: Was moved and seconded, the vote was unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0. A motion by David was made and recommended to be used if necessary at the ATM. "The committee supports free public pre-school in Ashfield and recommends the whole operating assessment be appropriated" The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. 4-0-0. (See Doc. 5)

Article 8-10: Were moved and seconded and the votes were unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0

Article 11: We have no recommendation at this time due to what we believe to be insufficient information.

Article 11A-13: Were moved and seconded and the votes were unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0

Article 14: Was moved and seconded and the votes were unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0. (It was noted this is for more transparency and benefits for entire pay of the employee)

Article 15-29: Were moved and seconded and the votes were unanimous to recommend. 4-0-0

3. Addendum to Press Release:

Ted distributed a document he was going to release to the Press who had contacted him for information about the Warrant. We looked it over and David had some recommendations. David and Ted were going to get together to make the changes and Ted was going to then submit it to the Press. (See Doc. 6)

4. Mary Priscilla Howe's Fund

There was a request from Jackie Cooper for a \$1000.00 grant from the fund. (See Doc. 7) Tom made a motion "The committee go back to the Belding Library Report of 1989 and use the figure of \$11,116.00 to establish as our starting point of the Principal in the Mary Pricilla Howe's Fund and not to spend below that amount." The motion was seconded by Ted and a discussion followed. The vote was 1 for (Ricki) – 2 against (David, Ted) – 1 abstain (Tom). The motion failed.

A second motion was made by David, "The committee, establish a moratorium on grants from the Howe's Fund until such time the committee can study and consider changes in the management of the fund." The vote was 2 for (Ted, David) – 2 against (Ricki, Tom). The motion failed.

A third motion was made by Ted, "The committee grant Jackie Cooper \$250.00 of her request after which the committee put a moratorium on any further grants until

such time the committee can study and consider changes in the management of the fund.” The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

An overview of the discussion: This fund was created and given to the Finance Committee by a Town Meeting vote to oversee and handle grants. There is a question of the interpretation of “income”. At first it was thought to be only the earned interest, however it could be read that any contributions after the initial amount was given to this fund is “earned income”. We would like to study this and see what records have been kept of donations and interest earned. We took a look at the Town Reports from 1989-1993 and found a starting figure of \$11,693.19 in 1990. and we had a figure of approximately \$12,200.00 as a current balance with a current approximate average of \$24.00 interest per year. We also thought there was already a precedent set by the committee giving grants to applicants, even without this clarity so decided, since there was a request on the table, it would be poor practice to not act in good faith giving at least a partial grant to Ms. Cooper.

5. Future Meetings

At this time there are no future meetings scheduled until the Annual Town Meeting May 2nd.

6. There being no other business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

DOCUMENT LIST

1 - Agenda

2 - Minutes from April 6th

3 - Minutes from April 22nd 2015

4 - Town Warrant

5 - Letter from Glen Cardinal and Martha Ferber (about school)

6 - Addendum to press release

7 - Jackie Cooper’s application for grant from Mary Priscilla Howes Fund

Submitted by,

Ricki Carroll

4/26/2015