

Accepted: 4/23/2015

Voted: 4-0-0

**MEETING MINUTES OF ASHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Conference Room  
April 6, 2015**

**Members Present:** Ted Murray (Chair), Janet Rogers, and Tom Schreiber

**Open**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

**Appointments**

Jacqueline Cooper presented and discussed her application for a grant from the Mary Priscilla Howes Fund. Titled “A Legacy of Rural Music, People, and Place: 1800-1940,” the project would be a week-long workshop for musicians culminating in a performance at Town Hall in celebration of Ashfield’s 250<sup>th</sup> celebration during late summer (see Document 2). There was no other funding currently being sought; ticket sales and further fund raising might help fund the overall budget of \$3,000 for the event. Jackie was seeking \$1,000 from the Howes Fund, but we emphasized the limited resources of the fund (\$12,285 balance as of 1/31/2015) and the enabling language of the fund that specified “income” from the fund (approximately \$24/year in recent years) was to be used for cultural and historical programs and projects. In light of these caveats and the need to further research the origins and history of the fund, the Finance Committee indicated that if a grant was to be made, it would be very modest and that we would need to discuss our policy further before making such a grant. However, we would have an answer for her by the end of May. She expressed her understanding of our situation, and expressed appreciation for our considering her application.

**STM Warrant**

We discussed and made recommendations (by motions, seconds, and unanimous votes) re: the Warrant Articles for the April 6 Special Town Meeting as follows (see Document 3):

- Art. 1 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 2 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 3 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 4 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 5 Recommended FOR PASSING OVER by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 6 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 7 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 8 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 9 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 10 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.
- Art. 11 Recommended FOR by a vote of 3-0-0.

**Transfer of Funds**

Mary Fitz-Gibbon presented two requests for Transfer of Funds from the Finance Committee’s Reserve Fund as follows:

1. Transfer from Reserve Fund to FRCOG Radio Maintenance (to correct for an earlier budgeting/scrivener's error) in the amount of \$535.90 (Document 4).

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of this transfer (3-0-0).

2. Transfer from Reserve Fund to Select Board Expenses (to help advertise for a new Town Administrator) the amount of \$375.00 (Document 5).

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of this transfer (3-0-0).

These two transfers left a balance in the Reserve Fund of \$2,089.10.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of three prior meetings held jointly with the Select Board were reviewed and discussed. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the amended versions of minutes for meetings on March 16, 2015, March 23, 2015, and March 25, 2015, though there were only two members of the FinCom at the meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup>, thus we did not have a quorum. (See Documents 6,7, 8.)

### **Appointed v. Elected Finance Committee**

We discussed the DLS's Financial Management Review's recommendation that Ashfield consider moving to a Finance Committee comprising members appointed by the Moderator instead of being elected. Presumably a more diverse, better qualified, and well experienced committee would result, but after discussion, we concluded that a public election could accomplish the same (and seemed to have done so in recent years) and that giving so much discretion for such appointments to a single Moderator, or even a 3-person Select Board risked too much concentration of power (and possibly hidden agendas). We preferred an elected committee, and will convey that point of view to the members of the Select Board who had sought our views.

### **Special Town Meeting**

At 7:00 the Finance Committee joined the Select Board for the Special Town Meeting, where minutes were taken by the Executive Assistant to the Select Board and/or Town Clerk. Following the meeting, there being no further business for the Finance Committee, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously 3-0-0. The Finance Committee's meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ted Murray

### **DOCUMENT LIST**

1. Agenda for April 6, 2015
2. Grant Request to the Mary Priscilla Howes Fund
3. STM Warrant
4. Request for Transfer from Reserve Fund to FRCOG Radio
5. Request for Transfer from Reserve Fund to Select Board Expenses
6. Minutes from meeting of March 16, 2015
7. Minutes from meeting of March 23, 2015
8. Minutes from meeting of March 25, 2015