

**Town of Sterling
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2017
Butterick Building, Room 205**

Chairman Joe Sova called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

In Attendance:

Joe Sova, Barbara Bartlett, Mary Cliett, Cynthia Secord and Gerry Kokernak
Also in attendance: Town Administrator Ross Perry, Treasurer Anne Cervantes,
Robert McKay Jones representing the 1835 Town Hall Committee, and Barry Sclar representing
the Wachusett School District

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Barbara Bartlett made a motion to approve minutes of the March 4, 2017 meeting and the
motion was seconded by Gerry Kokernak. Motion carried.

Discuss FY18 Capital Requests and Capital Warrant Article:

Barry Sclar from the Wachusett School District spoke on a capital request of \$82,674.00 to
purchase and install a wireless network for the Chocksett and Houghton Schools. Each town in
the district is bearing the cost of the installation for their own school(s).

Vote Position on 1835 Town Hall Warrant Article(s):

The Committee members considered each of the four (4) warrant articles regarding the 1835
Town Hall.

- Article X-4 - Fund 1835 Town Hall Maintenance and Conveyance: After discussion, a motion
was made by Mary Cliett that recommended the Finance Committee not support this article.
The motion was seconded by Cynthia Secord. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- Article X-3 - Fund 1835 Town Hall Roof Repairs Only - Partial Funding: After discussion,
Gerry Kokernak made a motion that the Finance Committee recommendation is to not
support the article. Mary Cliett seconded the motion. All members in favor, the motion carried.
- Article X-2 - Fund 1835 Town Hall Roof Repairs Only - Fully Funded: After discussion, Gerry
Kokernak made a motion to recommend support of this article, contingent on the 1835 Town
Hall Committee submit quarterly reports, institute an aggressive fund-raising effort, and apply
for grants. Funding source for this article would be to raise and appropriate, noting this is part
of a five-year plan with a total potential project cost of \$610,000. Cynthia Secord seconded
the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.
- Article X-1 - Fund Major 1835 Town Hall Repairs: This article would totally fund the Town Hall
project, with a projected cost of \$610,000. After discussion, Gerry Kokernak made a motion
that the Finance Committee recommendation would be to not support the article. Cynthia
Secord seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried. Further discussion
ensued, with the Committee members noting they recognize this will be a phased-in project
and they are in full support of the scope of the project.

Discuss FY18 Capital Requests and Capital Warrant Article (continued):

After discussion, Mary Cliett made a motion that the Finance Committee recommendation will be that all Capital Articles will be funded from certified free cash. Cynthia Secord seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mary Cliett that \$100,000.00 be moved from free cash to the Capital Account. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Secord. All in favor; motion carried.

After discussion, Barbara Bartlett made a motion that \$150,000.00 be moved from free cash to the OPEB Account. This motion was seconded by Gerry Kokernak. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cynthia Secord and seconded by Mary Cliett. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.