

Town of Sterling Special Town Meeting

Joint Finance and Capital Committee meeting at Chocksett School

Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023

Finance Committee Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by George Handy, Chair

Capital Committee Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Lynne Sheppard, Chair

Finance Committee Attendees: Joe King, Vice-Chair; Lynne Sheppard, George Handy, Chair; Mark Gauthier, Christina Lashua

Capital Committee Attendees: Lynne Sheppard, Chair; Joe King, Liz Pape, Joint-Chair; John Kilcoyne

Absent: Paul Austin, Ezequiel Ayala

Other Attendees: Valerie Handy, Recording Secretary

Approval of prior meeting minutes 9/26/2023 Joint Finance and Capital Budget Committee: Motion Seconded and unanimously approved.

Agenda Items:

The following two (2) STM Warrant Articles were discussed, motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved:

Recommend Approval by Capital Budget Committee and Finance Committee: Article 5, Public Safety

Communications: Consider the transfer \$30,000 from Capital Stabilization to equip a newly approved cell tower with public safety radio equipment.

Recommend Approval by Finance Committee: Article 6, Special Election and Town Meeting: Consider the transfer \$15,000 from the General Stabilization account to fund the special election cycle for State Senate and this Special Town Meeting.

Other Discussions:

Finance Committee Recommends to Not Support: Article 7 Amendment to Regional School

Agreement was discussed, motioned, seconded by the Finance Committee and the vote was unanimous to not support the amendment as it would give weighted voting to Holden.

Recommend Approval by Finance Committee: Article 9 Citizens Petition Board of Health Audit. Article discussed, motioned, seconded by the Finance Committee and the vote as unanimous to support the audit and appropriation of \$10,000 to pay for the independent audit.

Finance Committee and Capital Budget Committee Interaction during Special Town Meeting:

A comment from the audience stating that a specific reserve fund should be named in **Article 9**, prompted a brief discussion between the Town Accountant, Town Administrator and Finance and Capital Committee. A motion was made by the Finance Committee to amend Article 9 to replace “any available reserve fund” with the specific, “general stabilization fund” wording. This was discussed, motioned, seconded, and passed at the STM.

An audience inquiry regarding the current balance in the Stabilization Fund prompted a brief discussion between the Town Administrator, Town Accountant and Finance and Capital Committee. Bill Caldwell, Town Administrator announced to the STM meeting the Stabilization Fund balance is approximately \$1.2M.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2023 6:30PM.

Finance and Capital Committee Adjourned: 8:35 pm