

**TOWN OF ROWLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting October 25, 2016
Rowley Town Hall

Members Present: Lawrence White, Chairman, Sharon Emery, Vice Chairman, Peter Censullo (arrived at 7:28 pm), Paul Jalbert, Dennis Roy

Members Absent: Janet Bridges, Jami Snow

Others in Attendance: Deborah Eagan, Town Administrator; Joseph Perry and David Petersen, Board of Selectmen

1. **Call to Order:** Larry White, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. **Review of Special Town Meeting Warrant (attached for reference):**

Article 3 – Roy moved to recommend Article 3. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 4 – Emery moved to recommend Article 4. Jalbert seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 5, New Position of Cemetery Supervisor/Highway Truck Driver – Emery asked for confirmation of hours to be worked and how weekend burials will be handled. She also questioned the funding source for overtime. Roy replied this will be a 40 hour per week position and this position would cover the weekend burials. Eagan stated overtime could be paid from the wage line for seasonal help as well as the cemetery revolving account. Roy stated that this new position is a good result of two committees working together to come up with the best way to accomplish what needed to be done in both the Cemetery and the understaffed Highway Department. Roy said there may be adjustments as they go forward with this new position and also noted the unions are happy with it. Jalbert asked if it is a 50/50 split between the two departments. Roy replied that while it is 50/50 for now, it will be tracked and the split can be adjusted at the end of the year.

Roy moved to recommend Article 5. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 6, Cemetery Commissioner Stipend - Roy moved to amend Article 6 to change the number from \$2000 to \$500. Roy then rescinded his motion to open discussion.

Censullo arrived at 7:28 pm

Roy discussed his concern that \$2000 is excessive for an elected position. He hopes that the new supervisor (reference Article 5) will be able to take over some of the day-to-day operations of the cemetery that the commissioner currently handles. He would like to start at a lower number and possibly increase it over time.

Emery disagreed and felt that the amount of work the commissioner does warrants a \$2000 stipend. She noted that funeral directors depend on and call on the commissioner frequently and there is more activity than is generally known.

Roy stated that the cemetery commissioners and the cemetery task force recommended this article, but that he, Roy, voted against it.

Roy moved to amend Article 6 to \$500. White seconded. The vote was 3 in favor (Roy, Jalbert, White) and 2 opposed (Emery, Censullo).

Eagan explained that the Warrant will note that the Finance Committee “does not recommend” Article 6. The table will note Finance Committee Recommends \$500.

Petersen questioned if the Finance Committee will have to make a motion on the floor at the Town Meeting. With discussion, Emery explained that Finance Committee recommendation is advisory only. If someone wants to amend the article, they will need to make a motion at the Town Meeting.

Debbie reviewed the process of motions and recommendations and will prepare a document for the Moderator to follow.

Article 7: Discussion took place regarding the effect an amendment of Article 6 will have on Article 7. White stated Article 7 can be recommended as it stands depending on the passing of Article 6.

Roy moved to recommend Article 7. Jalbert seconded.

Perry stated that Article 7 would have to be amended as well. After discussion, White stated the Committee can make their recommendation on the floor.

Roy rescinded his motion to recommend Article 7, and Jalbert rescinded his second.

Article 8: Roy moved to recommend Article 8. Jalbert seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor, with Emery abstaining from the vote.

Article 9: Roy moved to recommend Article 9. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 10: Jalbert moved to recommend Article 10. Roy seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 11: Jalbert moved to recommend Article 11. Roy seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 12: Jalbert moved to recommend Article 12. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 13: Jalbert moved to recommend Article 13. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 14: Roy moved to recommend Article 14. Emery seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 15: Roy questioned if some of this money could be spent later in the year instead of being voted on at town meeting. Jalbert stated his concern if the Town does not vote to recommend, it may give DEP cause to fine the Town for non-compliance. White agreed, stating that the work needs to be done to be in compliance with DEP and this article demonstrates that the Town is taking action. David Petersen pointed out this is an Article and, therefore, the funds can be carried over into the next fiscal year.

Censullo moved to recommend Article 15. Jalbert seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 16: Emery moved to recommend Article 16. White seconded.

Censullo questioned the intent of this article and if it lead to restrictions on private wells. White pointed out that the Finance Committee is only recommending the monetary value of the fines, not water use enforcement. Eagan read aloud the bylaw on the role of the Finance Committee. Eagan stated that the Finance Committee is not obligated to make a recommendation on this article and she will change the wording in the warrant to reflect this.

3. **Next Meeting**: November 14 at 7:00 pm, prior to start of Town Meeting, Pine Grove School.

4. **Adjourn** – Jalbert moved to adjourn. Roy seconded and the motion was approved at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Coffey
Finance Committee Secretary

Documents Attached:

- Agenda
- Warrant for Special Town Meeting, November 14, 2016