



Minutes – Acton Finance Committee

Date May 16, 2006

Town Hall 7:30 PM

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 7:30 pm on May 16, 2006, to review various matters

Members present for the meeting: Pat Easterly, Herman Kabakoff, Allen Nitschelm, Steve Noone, Bob Evans, Pat Clifford, David Stone, Kent Sharp and Bill Mullin

Others Present: Maryann Ashton

The Chair welcomed Mr.Sharp as a full member and Mr. Mullin as a new member

Approval of Minutes

Mr.Kabakoff moved the minutes of the May 2nd meeting be approved, Mr. Stone seconded the motion. Seven members voted in favor, none opposed, Mr. Mullin and Ms Clifford abstained

New Business:

A Election of Clerk

Mr.Kabakoff moved that Mr. Noone, previously nominated, be elected Clerk. Mr. Stone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously

B. Status of ALG Plan

Ms Easterly discussed the message from Marie Altieri concerning the latest Senate bill as it pertains to the APS and AB Regional Budgets. It appeared there would be less for APS than was contemplated in the ALG Plan but more for the Region, but there would be more State money in total

The committee discussed the various possibilities of how to distribute the funds between the school systems and what to do with the excess. Some members supported the position that this would be an opportune time to address long deferred capital spending needs, while others suggested that the more pressing need was to reduce class size by hiring more teachers.

The discussion was deemed to be premature since the numbers could still change

C Calendar

Ms Easterly discussed a tentative calendar of meeting dates for the upcoming year, the June dates were agreed upon, and the Chair said that she would publish the full year calendar before the next meeting.



D Committee Assignments

The following assignments were made

Committee Name	Assignment
School Committees	Pat Easterly, Bob Evans
Board of Selectmen	Herman Kabakoff, Allen Nitschelm
Community Preservation Committee	Steve Noone
Conservation Commission	David Stone
EDC	Herman Kabakoff
LAN	David Stone
Planning Board/ Department	Kent Sharp
Health Insurance Trust	Bob Evans
Acton Community Housing	Pat Clifford
ALG	Pat Easterly, Pat Clifford
Wastewater Citizens Advisory Committee	Allen Nitschelm
Morrison Farm Planning Committee	Bill Mullin
Association of Town Finance Committees	Pat Clifford
Reporting Sub-Committee	Pat Easterly, Pat Clifford
Re-Engineering Project Sub-Committee	Allen Nitschelm, Steve Noone
Capital Planning Team	Pat Easterly
Free Cash/Stabilization Policy Sub-Committee	Pat Clifford, Allen Nitschelm, Steve Noone

E Discussion of Goal for the Committee

The Chair distributed the following Draft Goals and asked for feedback.

- 1) Enhance participation and involvement in the budget process
 - a. Increase dialogue with other committees and project teams
 - b. Determine the best use of “outside resources”
 - c. Target key areas and do our “homework”
 - d. Continue improvements in reporting
- 2) Update re-engineering Study
- 3) Continue Capital Planning Process
- 4) Free Cash/ Stabilization Policy

Ms Clifford asked if the focus of the next 2020 would be Capital, would there be a report at the State of the Town meeting

Mr. Mullin asked about having a revenue focused project, Mr. Stone suggested we look into the Middlesex Retirement issues, also follow up on Healthcare changes from the last 2020.

Mr. Nitschelm suggested broadening the re-engineering scope to include revenue enhancement.

The Chair indicated there would be more discussion and a vote on goals at our next meeting



Committee Reports

Ms Clifford reported on the ACHC
Mr. Kabakoff reported on the BOS
Mr. Noone reported on the CPC
Mr. Evans reported on the HIT
Ms Easterly reported on the School Committees

Mr. Sharp moved to adjourn, Mr. Mullin seconded and the committee voted to adjourn at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Noone
Clerk