

Minutes – Acton Finance Committee
May 11, 2010, 7:30p.m.
Room 204
Town Hall

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 p.m. on May 11, 2010 to review various matters.

Members present for the meeting: Herman Kabakoff, Chair, Mary Ann Ashton, Vice Chair, Bill Mullin, Clerk, Pat Easterly, Bob Evans, Kent Sharp, Doug Tindal and Brandy Brandon, Associate Member. Steve Noone was absent.

Public Participation

None.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes covering the Town Meeting period of April 6 and 7, 2010 were approved unanimously.

Douglas at Dawn Revolving Account

Ms. Easterly explained the need for a Finance Committee vote to approve an increase in the level of spending for the Douglas at Dawn program for the Douglas School. There is no impact on taxes or revenue as this is a self funded and expensed program.

Motion: Mr. Mullin moved, seconded by Ms. Clifford, to amend the level of spending for the Douglas at Dawn program in FY 2010 from \$221,000 to \$291,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Committee Assignments and Meeting Schedule

Ms. Ashton distributed proposed topical and committee liaison assignments as well as a proposed meeting schedule through the end of the year and asked for review. She noted that there is some discussion about a June Special Town Meeting that may be required to approve a new collective bargaining agreement, which will drive some of the early meetings, if the STM comes to pass.

Committee Reports

- *Health Insurance Trust.* Mr. Evans commented on a previously distributed memo with respect to his attendance at an informational meeting, held by the Association of Finance Committees. He also gave the committee an updated on the FY10 projections for the HIT, which do not contain a dramatic swing in the previously projected revenue or expense.
- *ACHC.* No comment.
- *School Committees.* Ms. Ashton referred to a previously distributed memo with respect to the May 6, 2010 School Committee Meeting. She highlighted the status of the approval process for the request for funding a capital plan feasibility study with respect to the Minuteman Career

and Technical High School. All 16 member municipalities must approve; 13 (including Acton) have voted to approve; 1 (Belmont) has voted not to approve; 2 have not yet voted. The obvious question is with respect to Belmont. The Minuteman School Committee and administration are going to find out where they are at the end of the Town Meeting season and then decide how to proceed.

- *Community Preservation Committee.* No comment.
- *Wastewater Advisory Neighborhood Taskforce.* Mr. Sharp reported on the meeting of May 4, 2010, at which John Murray reviewed the history, rationale and current status of the financing structures for the sewer district. Mr. Sharp further commented that the task force feels that they have completed the survey part of their assignment, having reviewed the “IA” (Innovative and Alternative) options for sewerage management. Mr. Kabakoff asked when would be the “ETA”, meaning the target date for actionable plans, for the recommendations of the task force and Mr. Sharp said that the target date is Annual Town Meeting in 2011.
- *Economic Development Committee.* Mr. Tindal reported that the EDC continues to work very hard at assisting existing businesses in town in dealing with the Sign Bylaw and its enforcement. He reported about the cooperative efforts of the Town Manager.
- *South Acton Train Station.* Ms. Clifford reported that the committee is focused on evolving their purposes and plans, in light of the successful outcome of their efforts to change the T’s plan at the commuter rail station. Of interest is the new shuttle service and how that affects the station. Ms. Clifford further noted that Peter Berry, who had played such a major role as Selectman, has agreed to stay on the committee.
- *Morrison Feasibility Task Force.* Msrs. Mullin and Tindal reported that the Board of Selectmen have scheduled a meeting for 5/24/10 to receive a presentation by the Stephen Kelleher Architects design team on feasibility plans for Morrison Farm. Both Mr. Mullin and Mr. Tindal praised a plan offered by Tom Tidman that stays true to the original Town Meeting vote over a decade ago, but also reflects the extensive public input over the last years. Mr. Evans asked about the buildings and the response was that no final recommendation has been made although preserving the house would be very costly in relation to any benefit. Ms. Clifford asked if the study could be made available in advance and Mr. Mullin agreed to check this out.

Election of Officers

Mr. Kabakoff moved, seconded by Ms. Clifford, to nominate Mary Ann Ashton for Chair of the Finance Committee. There were no other nominations and Ms. Ashton was elected unanimously.

Mr. Kabakoff moved, seconded by Ms. Clifford, to nominate Bill Mullin for Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. There were no other nominations and Mr. Mullin was elected unanimously.

Mr. Kabakoff moved, seconded by Ms. Clifford, to nominate Doug Tindal for Clerk of the Finance Committee. There were no other nominations and Mr. Tindal was elected unanimously.

Retirement of Mr. Kabakoff

Mr. Kabakoff had previously announced that he would be retiring from the Finance Committee; he has been serving our Town steadily over the last 17 years in various roles. Very kindly, Mr. Kabakoff complimented the current committee members and thanked them for their support.

Ms. Ashton expressed the heartfelt thanks to Herman Kabakoff for his leadership of the Finance Committee for the last year, in addition for his years of service to the Town of Acton. Ms. Ashton, noting her shared linkage to

the City of Cincinnati, gave Mr. Kabakoff a can of the famous Cincinnati Skyline Chili, as a token of the committee's esteem and affection. (Please see below for more on Skyline Chili.)

Motion: Mr. Evans moved that the Clerk record in the minutes of this meeting a Resolution of Thanks and Congratulations to Mr. Kabakoff. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Adjournment

Mr. Sharp moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Clifford, approved unanimously, at approximately 8:40 pm.

(Side note: Skyline Chili. Nicholas Lambrinides introduced Cincinnati to his mother and grandmother's authentic Greek dishes when he opened his first restaurant overlooking the city's skyline in 1949. Since then, Skyline Chili has become synonymous with Cincinnati tradition, as generation after generation has enjoyed Skyline's chili, still made using Nicholas' original recipe, on Chili Cones and Ways. Skyline's dedication to bringing family and friends together is reflected in their choice of quality ingredients and table-side service.)