

Draft Minutes – Acton Finance Committee  
May 24, 2005  
Acton Town Hall, Room 204 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 24, 2005. The Agenda for the meeting is made part of the minutes and is attached hereto; the meeting was broadcast on public access television.

Members present for all or part of the meeting: Jonathan Chinitz, Pat Clifford, Pat Easterly, Bob Evans, Gim Hom, Herman Kabakoff, and David Stone, Chair.

No members of the public were present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Mr. Kabakoff moved approval of the minutes for the meetings of May 10 and April 4, 2005. Following a second by Ms. Easterly, the minutes were approved without objection.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Stone opened discussion of the *draft* warrant articles for the June 13, 2005, Special Town Meeting. Mr. Kabakoff advised the committee that the Board of Selectmen did not take positions on the articles at their meeting on May 23.

Article One: to change the days of operation at the Transfer Station from two to five days beginning July 1, 2005. After discussion of funding issues and ascertaining that the change would be revenue neutral, the committee unanimously adopted Mr. Hom's motion, supported by Mr. Evans, to recommend Article One.

Article Two: to adopt Pay As You Throw (PAYT) pricing for users of the Transfer Station. Mr. Stone introduced the article saying that the Life After NESWC (LAN) Committee's sensitivity analysis does suggest that PAYT has to achieve its projected goals in order for the Transfer Station to remain viable. Ms. Easterly expressed concern about the pricing schemes developed without firm data. Mr. Chinitz predicted a 20 to 25 percent reduction in trash was unlikely. Mr. Kabakoff wanted a means of pricing bulk loads for cleanups.

Mr. Evans moved the Committee recommend against PAYT based on inadequate data to support pricing and that the Finance Committee encourage the Selectmen to gather data during the next year to support a pricing scheme. Mr. Kabakoff seconded the motion that was unanimously agreed to.

Article Three: in the absence of specific information regarding the land acquisition and recognizing the article was submitted as a placeholder, the committee agreed to defer any vote.

Article Four: No action as the proposed bylaw was to be re-written.

Article Five: a nonbinding resolution which included some structural problems that the Board of Selectmen had asked to be reworked. There was agreement that the Finance Committee would consider Article Five a future meeting. Mr. Hom cited some research on large retail stores and suggested it would be foolish to think the Town could limit commercial growth with zoning.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ALG:** (Chinitz) ALG held its recap meeting where outgoing participants hand over consensus items to incoming members.

**BOS:** (Kabakoff) BOS focused primarily on warrant discussion; Recreation Director has accepted a job in Wayland; report from the Committee on Disabilities and several appointment interviews.

**HIT:** (Chinitz) HIT is finalizing the FY04 audit and reviewing a 10 year retrospective analysis; priority on rebuilding the fund balance.

**APS:** (Easterly) No school choice at the local level; Conant PTSO asked for capital spending for computers.

**ACHC:** (Clifford) Three projects in development stages: Willow Central, feasibility study done and preparing to go forward with construction; Blanchard Place, meeting with Conservation Commission, possibly reducing number of units; discussing purchase of Condos from Wampus Ave conversion.

**PSB:** (Chinitz) The ratified union contract has resolved the issue of combined dispatch; there is \$80-100,000 in contingency fund to resolve construction issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**GOALS:** Mr. Stone opened discussion of FinCom goals for FY06 Among the suggestions discussed were a demonstration project to broaden the Open Meeting Law to include electronic mail and online discussions; cleaning up and posting on the web page the multiyear financial plan; improving communications with other towns to gather qualitative information, and encouraging transparency in regard to capital budgeting. This agenda item will be continued.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** The Chairman proposed a list of committee assignments and suggested volunteers for openings should contact him. He indicated he was expecting to communicate with the moderator regarding new FinCom appointees.

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CALENDAR: A final calendar for FY06 reflecting changes requested will be forthcoming.

Mr. Kabakoff moved adjournment at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Clifford, Clerk

NEXT MEETINGS: June 7, 2005 and June 13, 2005, prior to Special Town Meeting.