

PROVED JUNE 27, 2018
PBStearns

HAMILTON FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
May 30, 2018

Members Present: Darcy Dale, John Pruellage, Phil Stearns (Chair), Nick Tensen, and David Wanger.

Others Present: Scott Maddern (Selectmen 7:17)

This Hamilton Finance and Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Council on Aging Building.

Public Comments

Discussion regarding outstanding items for Q4 and potential year-end transfers.

Discussion ensued regarding Marisa Batista's absence from the meeting due to the fact that only 15% of Ms. Batista's time could be attributed to Finance. Phil Stearns had spoken with Scott Maddern who suggested that the Chair of FinCom and Mr. Maddern meet with the Town Manager and Ms. Batista twice a month going forward to keep the FinCom in sync with the Board of Selectmen and Town Hall. David Wanger thought it might be bit of a regression. Darcy Dale agreed.

Phil Stearns noted the \$50,000 in waste, \$3,000 in lights and \$3,000 in fuel would be transfers. \$7,000 was left in the FinCom Reserve Fund.

Election of FinCom Chair and officers.

Darcy Dale nominated David Wanger as Chairman but Mr. Wanger respectfully declined.

Darcy Dale nominated Phil Stearns.

Nick Tensen seconded.

John Pruellage expressed that Phil Stearns was ready, deserving, and would do a great job. Phil Stearns agreed that if David Wanger wanted to continue as Chairman, he would second his nomination as he had done a remarkable job raising the profile of the FinCom. Mr. Stearns hoped to count on Mr. Wanger to give guidance and support as well as remain an active member of the Committee. Mr. Wanger noted the FinCom had come a long way from years ago and that under Phil Stearns' reign and active support, the work would continue. Mr. Wanger said he was unable to continue as Chair due to personal issues and thanked everyone for their support.

Vote: Unanimous in favor to approve Phil Stearns as Chair.

David Wanger nominated John Pruellage as Vice Chair.

Darcy Dale seconded.

John Pruellage noted that he was honored and would accept.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

David Wanger nominated Darcy Dale as secretary.

Seconded by Phil Stearns.

Ms. Dale was concerned that her term ended in the end of June but it was agreed that if for some reason she was not reapproved, the position would be filled.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Determination of FinCom liaison assignments.

Darcy Dale would be the liaison to the Town Hall Search Committee. John Pruellage would be the liaison to the School Committee. Phil Stearns and John Pruellage would work on a project regarding school funding. While Scott Maddern spoke about the potential rejoining of Wenham's ECO and possible merger of Fire Departments, Ms. Dale disagreed. Mr. Maddern said there were always dissenters in regional service agreements but the services would improve under a joint venture. Ms. Dale disagreed, except for procurement and IT regionalization. David Wanger would be the Planning Board liaison. Ms. Dale would focus on revenue streams from new projects such as the solar field at the landfill site. PILOT was already being studied by Mr. Pruellage and Mr. Wanger, who would continue to work on the subject.

Marijuana was considered a potential growing income stream and Phil Stearns would focus on the subject despite the lack of a committee. Scott Maddern said the Selectmen had developed a list of impacts and found there to be 1 to 3% gross revenue potential. Topsfield had signed an agreement at 1.5% and created an overlay district for the ½ acre (in Topsfield) facility. The Town was negotiating with Green Meadows Farm. The Host Community Agreement listed fees. Green Meadows would need to complete three State filings but had only completed one to date. Odor control from the extraction of oils during processing was the main issue with neighbors. Conditions of the agreement would expire and be renewable. The State would receive 50% and the Town would likely receive \$100,000 to \$300,000 for the 1.5 acre in Hamilton behind the hill. Neighbors would not be able to see the facility as it would be obscured by orchards. Mr. Maddern would keep the FinCom comprised of the situation.

Nick Tensen would be the liaison to the Patton Homestead Committee. Scott Maddern asked Mr. Tensen to focus on the site as a Town asset. Discussion ensued regarding the insurance needs of the property. Mr. Tensen believed the Corporation should have their own insurance rather than the Town's. Mr. Maddern said a director would be hired for FY19 and the insurance would be that of the Town. The Board of Directors and Wenham would have a charrette to work together to build a capital campaign and how money would be held to fund a Town asset.

David Wanger would be liaison to the Council on Aging, Hamilton Historic District Commission, ZBA, and Selectmen. Nick Tensen would be liaison to the HDC, CPC, Public Safety, Waste Enterprise, and the Recycling Committee. John Pruellage would study the Town Meeting voting systems and be liaison to the Department of Public Works, Water Enterprise, and HW Community Access. Phil Stearns would focus on general government and be liaison to

David Wanger, Jeff Hubbard, and John Pruellage would meet the following day with Gordon Conwell. A get acquainted meeting had already occurred. Issues related to the cell tower disputes had been considered. Mr. Wanger would look for guidance at the June 4, 2018 Selectmen's meeting as he said he was reluctant to engage in a serious discussion until clarification of authority had been set. Scott Maddern indicated that a committee had not been set with volunteers given a charge. If a mission were set, a committee would be supported. Mr. Maddern reiterated that no commission had been set and if one had been set, the Fincom would not be eligible to be a party to it anyway. Mr. Maddern said cell tower issues should not be discussed due to legal issues. The Town did not want exploration on Brown's Hill due to the viability of the site. Mr. Maddern suggested that discussions should be limited to PILOT and the cost of the seminary's children's education.

David Wanger recalled that his and John Pruellage's understanding was that the group was allowed to move forward. Darcy Dale noted that the townspeople wanted discussions to occur. Phil Stearns added that the town wanted a cell tower and wanted Gordon Conwell to pay their full share. Scott Maddern suggested that there not be meeting on it until the Selectmen discussed it further because if no one had their back, the ad hock group had no purpose. Mr. Wanger recalled that every five or ten years, investigations occurred with no answers. Nick Tensen didn't think it was inappropriate that the meeting was scheduled and that it might help the Selectmen if someone were to break the ice. Ms. Dale agreed.

David Wanger suggested having a Selectmen representative as a part of the commission with the FinCom reporting to the Selectmen. Mr. Wanger wanted to be candid that the matter was being seriously pursued rather than sinking back to a circular futile bargaining position. Mr. Wanger wanted to have the Selectmen discuss the situation on June 4, 2018 and have a meeting set directly afterward. Scott Maddern suggested a Town Hall employee be a representative. Mr. Wanger wondered if money were not available, land for a cell tower might be appropriate. Mr. Wanger was disappointed that commitment had gone fallow. Phil Stearns suggested introducing a school committee member to the group as that was the biggest expense of the seminary. There were 45 students valued at \$18,000 each. Mr. Wanger noted the agreement from 1970 to pay for the students.

Scott Maddern said there was no capacity for cell towers in the steeple as the equipment was old, which was why the area was vacant. Mr. Maddern added that if Verizon wanted something on the steeple, they would be located there. David Wanger said the whole topic was mired in an intra-town dispute and that the lawsuit was suspicious. Varsity was involved in the Request for Proposal, which was suspicious and allowed people with different views to disagree, which was why nothing was getting done. Mr. Wanger said there was no point in exploring the cell tower with Gordon Conwell because the Selectmen were not behind it.

Committee Member Comments/Reports.

Nick Tensen noted the Recycling Committee was going to the Selectmen to ask for every other week for trash pickup as they were trying to push composting again because recycling was more expensive. More composting would lower the tipping fee for trash. David Wanger wondered about the public paying for their own trash dump or private hauler. Scott Maddern said the town expected trash collection as a town service. It was noted that Cosella did not save money by going from two weeks to one week collection. Mr. Maddern was in favor of more recycling. Mr. Tensen noted the savings was in composting. Mr. Maddern added that bi-weekly collecting made composting worse.

Review and approval of any available minutes

David Wanger moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2018.

Darcy Dale seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor with Nick Tensen abstaining.

Other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

David Wanger had the list of bank accounts but wondered which account was in which fund and what the rate of return might be for each fund. Phil Stearns would follow up with the treasurer.

Adjournment

David Wanger made motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by John Pruellage.

Vote Unanimous to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Prepared by:

Marcie Ricker

Attest

Date