

**Town of Concord  
Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2020**

**Present:** Dean Banfield, Greg Guarriello, Mary Hartman, John Hickling, Dee Ortner, Parashar Patel, Christine Reynolds, Wade Rubinstein, Phil Swain, Brian Taylor and Andrea Zall

**Absent:** Peter Fischelis, Richard Jamison, Karle Packard and Thomas Tarpey

**Others Present:** Finance Director Kerry Lafleur and about 32 Public Officials and Members of the Public, some as noted below

**Meeting Opened**

Mr. Banfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm via Zoom and broadcast via MMN. He explained the Rules of Engagement, which require all votes to be taken by roll call vote. He explained that when the time comes, he will call for a vote and ask for an audible vote by FC members.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a **MOTION** made by Mr. Hickling and seconded by Ms. Hartman, the following minutes were approved by a roll call **VOTE**, with 10 voting in favor (Banfield, Guarriello, Hartman, Hickling, Ortner, Patel, Reynolds, Rubinstein, Swain and Taylor) and one abstention (Zall):

- February 6, 2020 - as revised
- February 13, 2020 - as drafted
- March 5, 2020 - as revised

**2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant Article Review & Recommendations  
Article 9—FY20 Budget Adjustment**

The group discussed the request to transfer \$225,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Legal Services Fund. Ms. Hartman suggested that the Finance Committee (FC) remain neutral. Ms. Ortner asked what would happen if the ATM takes place after June 30. Ms. Lafleur responded that if no town meeting action occurs prior to June 30, then she would bring the request back to the FC and Select Board in July to authorize a year-end transfer. Mr. Banfield commented that if the ATM were to vote no on Article 9, then the issue would still come back to the FC for resolution. Ms. Hartman noted that the Town would still be required to pay the bill. In response to a question from Mr. Patel as to whether the Town is charged interest for late payment on the bill, Ms. Lafleur said “No.”

Mr. Swain remarked that law firms are currently getting lots of comments from clients about not being able to pay bills. He indicated that most law firms are accustomed to not receiving prompt payment. He noted that when litigation is running over budget, the law firm understands that payment may not be forthcoming. Mr. Patel made a **MOTION** to recommend affirmative action on Article 9, which was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. During the discussion which followed, Ms. Ortner commented that the FC voted no

when asked to make the transfer earlier this year. She questioned why the FC would change its strategy now, since it was not willing to use the Reserve Fund for this purpose earlier. Mr. Hickling commented that the vote at that time was one of principle.

Due to time constraints, and on a **MOTION** made by Ms. Hartman and seconded by Mr. Patel, it was unanimously **VOTED** (with Banfield, Guarriello, Hartman, Hickling, Ortner, Patel, Reynolds, Rubinstein, Swain, Taylor and Zall all voting affirmatively) to table the vote on Article 9.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm in order to open the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita S. Tekle  
Recording Secretary

Documents Used or Referenced at Meeting:

- 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant