

**Needham Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting of May 4, 2009**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by the Chair, David Escalante, at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room at the Newman School.

Present from the Finance Committee:	David Escalante, Chair Lisa Zappala, Vice Chair Scott Brightman Richard Creem	Richard Reilly Steven Rosenstock Michael Taggart (arrived at 7:05 pm) Richard Zimbone
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Also Present: David Davison, Assistant Town Manager – Finance Director

There were no public comments.

Discuss and Vote as Appropriate Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 4 Entitled “Amend FY 2009 Operating Budget”: Mr. Davison stated that there is no need for the health insurance surplus transfer to OPEB. The budget transfer for the Planning Department is due to additional legal and notice costs as a result of the proposed zoning by-laws changes. Mr. Rosenstock moved that the Finance Committee recommend that line 17A of the FY 2009 Operating Budget be amended to \$192,130 and that line 17B be amended to \$21,260. Mr. Rosenstock further moved that the Finance Committee recommend withdrawing lines 3 and 4 of the FY 2009 Operating Budget from Article 4 and that the amendment proposed to the Finance Department Budget be recommended as printed in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Zimbone seconded the motion. Discussion: none. The motion was approved by unanimous vote: 7-0

Discuss and Vote as Appropriate May Town Meeting Warrant Article 39 Entitled “Appropriate for CPA/Windows/Energy Improvements for Six 40B Housing Units”: Mr. Rosenstock moved that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of May Town Meeting Warrant Article 39 Entitled “Appropriate for CPA/Windows/Energy Improvements for Six 40B Housing Units”. Mr. Zimbone seconded the motion. Discussion: none. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-2 (Mr. Creem and Mr. Escalante dissented). Mr. Creem stated that he has a philosophical problem with using public funds to fund private entities. Mr. Escalante stated that CPA funding should be used to assist non-profits set up affordable housing not maintain it.

Discuss and Vote as Appropriate May Town Meeting Warrant Article 34 Entitled “Accept Federal and State Stimulus Grants”: Ms. Zappala reported that the Board of Selectmen withdrew Article 34.

Discuss Facilities Financing Plan: The Newman School repairs schematic design for \$450,000 appears both in the 3% within the tax levy and in the assumed override for Newman. Mr. Zimbone stated that the Plan should be conservative so that there is a contingency built in. Mr. Reilly agreed but cautioned that if the Plan is too conservative,

projects that should get done may not. Mr. Brightman stated that it would serve the Town well if the Finance Committee took a position on the override, since there will be no other opportunity for the Finance Committee or Town Meeting to take a position on the Newman School repairs. Mr. Creem agreed with Mr. Brightman and stated that the Finance Committee may not use public resources to disseminate its position.

Mr. Reilly moved that the meeting of the Finance Committee be suspended to be reconvened as necessary during the course of Town Meeting. Mr. Rosenstock seconded the motion. The meeting of the Finance Committee was suspended by unanimous vote 8-0 at approximately 7:20 pm.

Mr. Zimbone moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:55 pm, seconded by Mr. Brightman. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote: 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Miller
Executive Secretary