

**Needham Finance Committee  
Minutes of Meeting of October 2, 2013**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by the Chair, Richard Lunetta, at approximately 7:00 pm in the Highland Room at the Town Hall.

Present from the Finance Committee:

Richard Lunetta, Chair; John Connelly, Vice Chair

Members: Louise Miller, Richard Reilly, Lisa Zappala, Richard Zimbone

Also Present:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager

David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

Patricia Carey, Director, Park and Recreation Department

Tad Staley, President, Bay Colony Rail Trail Association

Kathleen Phelps, Bay Colony Rail Trail Association

Robert Lewis, Assistant Director, Public Works

Carys Lustig, Supervisor of Administration/DPW

Janet Carter-Bernardo, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee

Lita Young, Vice-Chairman, Community Preservation Committee

Philip E. Droney, Chief of Police

Dan Matthews, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles Discussed

Article 9- Authorize Lease for MBTA Property for Shared Use Recreation Trail

Article 10- Appropriate for Rail Trail Insurance

Article 11- Amend General By-Law – Public Consumption of Marijuana

Article 12- Amend General By-Law - Municipal Water Supply

Article 13- Authorize Taking of Real Property (Hillside Ave.)

Article 14- Home Rule Petition – Sale of All Alcoholic Beverages in Restaurants with Fewer Than 100 Seats

Article 15- Appropriate for Ridge Hill Reservation Swamp Trail Boardwalk Construction

Article 17- Appropriate for General Fund Cash Capital

Article 18- Appropriate for DPW Garage Vehicle Service Lift

Article 19- Appropriate for Property Acquisition (Chestnut St.)

Article 20- Amend FY2014 Operating Budget

Article 23- Appropriate to Capital Improvement Fund

Article 24- Appropriate to Capital Facility Fund

Article 25- Appropriate to Athletic Facility Improvement Fund

**Citizen Requests**

There were no requests to address the Committee.

**Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings**

MOVED: By Mr. Reilly that the Finance Committee approve the minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2013 as distributed. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

## **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 9: Authorize Lease for MBTA Property and Article 10: Appropriate for Rail Trail Insurance**

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that Article 9 authorizes the Town to lease property from the MBTA for a rail trail. She stated that the same article was withdrawn from the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May. Over the summer, the Town negotiated with the MBTA and there is a draft lease. The MBTA has entered into many such leases, and refuses to change any terms except the description of the property. Thus, this agreement is virtually the same as the others. It covers rail property starting in the vicinity of High Rock Street ending at the Dover town line for \$1 per year, for up to 99 years. The MBTA requires that the Town purchase insurance or indemnify the MBTA for pollution issues for five years. Mr. Reilly asked if there was potential for liability after the five year term. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the insurance covers existing pollution that affects abutters. There should be no pollution issues after the five year term. In response to a question from Mr. Connelly, Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that after the lease is signed, the Town will apply for insurance through one of the providers allowed by the State. The Town will rely on the Bay Colony Rail Trail Association (BCRTA) to raise the funds for construction, which the Town will require to be done in accordance with the DEP's best management practices, which will include covering the area with stone dust or asphalt. Mr. Zimbone asked if the Town will be taking any steps to mitigate potential liability, or getting indemnification. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there is no such insurance, but if any problem is found, then encapsulation, not removal, is required. The planned construction includes the same steps as that mitigation. Mr. Zimbone asked about areas for entering the trail. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that if there is no digging or removing the surface, the Town does not need to look for issues. The Town will think carefully before disturbing any existing asphalt such as old train platforms.

Mr. Zimbone asked if the Town was precluded from extending beyond the 1.7 miles being discussed. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that adding the section of rail from High Rock St. to Needham Junction would be ideal, but the MBTA believes it needs that space to remain an active rail. Ms. Zappala asked if the MBTA were to extend the lease later, whether additional insurance would be needed. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the Town would probably have to get another policy, though it might be possible to negotiate something within the five-year policy period. Ms. Miller asked if the CPC had determined whether the cost of construction was CPA eligible, in the event the fundraising could not complete the work. Ms. Bernardo stated that the CPC has determined that the insurance is eligible for funding, but has not discussed the construction costs. Ms. Carey stated that other towns have used CPA funds for rail trail construction, so it has been found to fall within the CPA.

Mr. Staley presented the planned phases of construction. He stated if sufficient funds are raised, then the project will include a surface appropriate for biking and walking. The first phase goal is \$200,000 to cover construction, 10-year maintenance escrow, and fences and shrubs for abutters. This would be a crushed stone surface. If an additional \$60,000 is raised, the surface will be stone dust, and the trail will be ADA compliant. He stated that the Town may require both phases to be done together for ADA compliance. Mr. Lunetta asked that they describe for the Committee their current fund raising efforts and overall strategy, and why they chose not to include the \$60,000 into Phase I. Mr. Staley stated that there has been passive fundraising so far. They have approached local businesses, and conducted a public "sponsor a foot" campaign. They have received \$15,000 from Needham Bank, \$42,000 from 2 private donors, \$14,000 from the campaign, and a \$35,000 grant. He stated that they now have over \$66,000 available. They

have submitted other grant applications. State Representative Garlick is working on obtaining State funding that could possibly bring in \$250,000 for the three towns on the trail. Ms. Miller asked who would own the trail. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the BCTRA would do the work, but the Town would have a leasehold interest in the trail. Ms. Carey stated that it would become part of the trail steward program. Ms. Miller asked about the time frame. Mr. Staley stated that it depends on how fast the fundraising proceeds. The salvage company, Iron Horse, would need a 6 month lead for that work. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the MBTA lease requires improvements to being within three years. Mr. Connelly asked what would happen to the bridge to Dover. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that a chain-link barricade would be installed. She stated that the MBTA will not take it down, and Dover owns half of it. Mr. Reilly asked if the \$66,000 in funds is for Needham or all three towns. Ms. Staley stated that \$14,000 is Needham-specific, but that the \$66,000 can be used for this project. The BCRTA board has five Needham members, two members each from Dover and Medfield and one member from Newton. The Board voted to allocate as much as Needham needs to go forward. Dover and Medfield want Needham to get done first. Medfield has a shorter trail, and will not go forward if it does not connect to others. Mr. Staley stated that he has allowed for contingencies and feels confident with his numbers.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 9- Authorize Lease for MBTA Property for Shared Use Recreation Trail. Ms. Zappala seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1, with Mr. Connelly dissenting.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 10- Appropriate for Rail Trail Insurance. Ms. Zappala seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Miller stated that she is concerned about the use of private fundraising for public projects. She would prefer to see a set schedule of when construction will start. She noted that this project would be eligible for back-up CPA funding if the fundraising is not successful. Mr. Zimbone stated that he is concerned that this could quickly change from a private to a publicly funded project. He does not think it is a wise use of funds as the cost could be very expensive. He said he would defer to the judgment of the CPC, but he does not want to see this as a drain on the CPC budget. He has no problem recommending approval of the insurance money so that the Town can go forward with the lease. However, he wants the Committee on record as being concerned about using public funds for this project. Mr. Lunetta stated that he supported Mr. Zimbone's sentiment, and stated that they should only seek public funding after making a full-blown effort and finding that they could go no further. Mr. Reilly asked if this project was in the CPC's long-term plan. Ms. Carey stated that it was included without a dollar value attached.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1, with Mr. Connelly dissenting.

### **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 15- Appropriate for Ridge Hill Reservation Swamp Trail Boardwalk Construction**

Ms. Bernardo stated that the old swamp trail was not usable, and they have tried to do as much as possible with funds available to date. The CPC funded \$58,000 in 2006 which allowed the Town to fund design, engineering, and borings for the trail. The Boy Scouts have contributed some

work. The old structure was demolished by the Exchange Club. The DPW has done survey work. The designs are complete and the project is ready to proceed. The Town is planning to go to the Conservation Commission with the designs. For construction, they are planning to use \$183,219 from CPA Open Space funds, \$100,000 from a Conservation fund, and \$15,500 of funds remaining from the design phase. The total cost is approximately \$300,000 for replacement of the entire trail. She stated that unlike the original trail, there will be a full loop with the Esker and Chestnut trails connected. She stated that since it is a structure, they will need to seek a variance for handicap access. She stated that the expected time frame is 6-8 months for procurement and permitting and 2 months construction starting in August 2014.

Ms. Zappala stated that the \$300,000 cost was expensive for one trail. Ms. Bernardo stated that the work involves much manual labor, including driving in support piles. She added that this trail is the top priority for the trail committee. She stated that the schools and recreation department will use the trail for educational programs. Ms. Miller asked why this issue is not being raised at the Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Bernardo stated that they were not quite ready last May because of permitting. The Conservation Committee decided to move forward with a goal of doing construction in August. If the article is not presented to the fall Town Meeting, then the procurement could delay the construction for an entire year. She stated that the project was on the CPC five year plan for \$300,000. Ms. Young stated that there was much discussion within the CPC when to move forward, and a majority voted to go forward now. Mr. Reilly noted that the entire trail is 1000 feet, so the cost is \$300/foot. Mr. Zimbone asked what projects are competing for these funds. Ms. Young state that the other projects on the CPC's list that have not been assigned dollar amounts are: Linden/Chambers housing, a possible property acquisition, the Ridge Hill building, and the Emery Grover building. Mr. Zimbone noted that some of those projects would come from different CPA buckets.

Ms. Zappala stated that this is clearly important to Conservation, which is willing to put up \$100,000 for the project. She stated that it is not within the Finance Committee's purview to decide which trails are most important. She stated that building in wetlands is expensive. She stated that the issue is whether the funds should be spent on a more wide-reaching use. Ms. Bernardo stated that they have tried to make every dollar count, but cannot get this done any other way. She stated that they use volunteers for trail work where they can. Mr. Reilly stated that the Finance Committee should consider the costs and merits of the project since it is the only committee that will review this project within a town-wide context. Mr. Connelly stated that he agreed, and that he cannot support this project because of the expense. Mr. Zimbone stated that he agreed as well.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend that Town Meeting not adopt Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 15- Appropriate for Ridge Hill Reservation Swamp Trail Boardwalk Construction. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1, with Ms. Zappala dissenting.

### **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 18- Appropriate for DPW Garage Vehicle Service Lift**

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the DPW has a service area with a hydraulic lift with two shafts for raising vehicles to be serviced. One lift is inoperable. Since it would cost \$30,000 to repair one lift, and the other is very old and likely to fail soon, she is recommending a new and safer

platform lift. This would operate from ground level, so the hole for the existing equipment would be closed. Since the equipment is covered by the State contract, the pricing is guaranteed. Mr. Lewis stated that most of the Town's equipment could fit on the lift, with the exception of the truck that moves the roll-offs, and fire trucks. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the request is for \$110,000 which includes a small contingency.

MOVED: By Mr. Connelly that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 18- Appropriate for DPW Garage Vehicle Service Lift in the amount of \$110,000. Mr. Zimbone seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

### **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 11- Amend General By-Law – Public Consumption of Marijuana**

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there is a need for a mechanism to allow police to restrict public consumption of marijuana. She stated that in the similar article at the last Annual Town Meeting, there was concern about the amount of the fine. This article mirrors the alcohol by-law against public consumption, except that the alcohol by-law does allow consumption in a public building under certain circumstances. She stated that the Town felt there was no need for such an exception for marijuana consumption. Chief Droney stated that under the law, Chapter 369 (of the Acts of 2012,) it is not necessary to make accommodations for marijuana use in public places. He stated that this is a public health issue as much as an enforcement issue. He stated that the police usually just throw away small amounts of marijuana found with an adult. If a minor is involved, they contact the parent and throw it away. He stated that he did not expect this to create a significant source of revenue.

Mr. Lunetta asked if there was a significant financial impact on the Town so that the Committee should take a position. Mr. Zimbone stated that there is a fine, so there is some financial implication. Mr. Connelly asked if the Board of Selectmen considered presenting this article at the same time as the zoning issue for marijuana dispensaries. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that they did, but they wanted to get this by-law in place right away because dispensaries will start opening in other towns before May. Chief Droney stated that he sees the medical marijuana laws are open for abuse and noted other states where the number of medical marijuana card holders has grown rapidly.

Ms. Miller stated that she was concerned about the language in the article that allows police to seize and hold a person's medication until final adjudication. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Attorney General would review the by-law before it took effect.

MOVED: By Mr. Connelly that the Finance Committee take no position on Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 11- Amend General By-Law – Public Consumption of Marijuana. Mr. Zimbone seconded the motion.

Mr. Zimbone stated that any financial implication of the article was de minimus.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1 with Ms. Miller dissenting.

Ms. Miller stated that the Committee should take a position. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town would review the language of the article. She asked if the Committee's position would

change if there was a minor language change. She noted that the language that Ms. Miller was concerned about was taken from the alcohol by-law. The Committee members indicated they would not change their position if there was a minor language change.

**Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 13- Authorize Taking of Real Property (Hillside Ave.)**

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there is a corner of sidewalk at 280 Hillside Ave that is not properly accessible because there is insufficient clearance due to of a utility pole. The Town needs to take approximately 2 square feet of space to pave it and make the sidewalk accessible. The property owner was concerned about liability for an accident on that area of pavement, and preferred to transfer the property rather than other options. The Town is proceeding with a friendly taking of the property. She stated that the financial implication is \$5,000 to perform research and represent the property owner in the process. The funds will come from the Senior Center construction budget. Ms. Miller asked that that be clearly explained in the article information.

MOVED: By Mr. Zimbone that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 13- Authorize Taking of Real Property. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

**Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 19- Appropriate for Property Acquisition (Chestnut St.)**

Mr. Lunetta stated that the property transfer has been discussed when the deposit was approved, but there are remaining questions about the use of the property. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that this property will be included in the facilities master plan study. The RFP for the study has been drafted and will be issued soon. If the Town owns this property, there will be significantly more options for expanding or rebuilding the public safety building, which is needed to meet current codes and needs. She stated that the property is completely surrounded by Town properties, and has not been conveyed since the 1970s. She stated that the article information will state that the primary reason for the purchase is to provide space for the public safety expansion. Ms. Miller asked when the feasibility study is planned for that project. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that is planned for FY17, which may change depending on the facility master plan study. She stated that it has not been determined if they will use the building in the interim. She stated that it would be maintained, at least minimally. It is possible to use it for office swing space or storage. She stated that the existing parking areas would likely be used. Mr. Zimbone asked if the Town would consider renting the property. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town was a landlord for residential property at Ridge Hill and it was a difficult situation at the end. Mr. Matthews stated that the Town would consider being a landlord only for commercial property with the ability to end the relationship quickly. Mr. Connelly stated that this property is commercial. Mr. Lunetta stated that the Committee wants to support this purchase, but the Town needs to present Town Meeting with some interim plans.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 19- Appropriate for Property Acquisition. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

## **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 12- Amend General By-Law - Municipal Water Supply**

Mr. Matthews stated that this article is a follow-up to the water use restrictions and the issues raised by the DEP. The Town is obligated to select from certain options that encourage water conservation. The Town must do something not done before. This plan would require property owners to have moisture sensing technology on lawn sprinkler systems. This was determined to be the easiest and lowest municipal cost option. The other option was to give subsidies for the purchase of water conserving items, which the Town does not think is a good idea. Mr. Connelly asked about the cost to residents. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the sensors cost \$150-\$440. Mr. Zimbone stated that installation would add to that cost. He stated that these devices are not reliable and do not last well. He stated that this is an added cost burden to people, especially if they need to retrofit an existing system. He stated that it would make more sense if the requirement applied only to new systems. Mr. Matthews stated that another issue is that DEP is imposing a requirement that needs a Town Meeting vote. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town is faced with the choice between this or the incentive program which would be very expensive. The incentives would apply to washing machines, dishwashers and toilets. She stated that the Town has previously given out low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, but must do something new.

Mr. Reilly asked how many people would be affected. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there are 4,000 irrigation meters in Town. Ms. Zappala noted not everyone with a sprinkler system has a separate meter. Mr. Matthews stated that if the Town does not comply with the DEP, then there is a potential \$1,000 per day fine. Mr. Zimbone stated that the requirement to install moisture sensors at \$400-\$500 per system amounts to an unfair tax. Ms. Miller asked if the Town could appeal. Mr. Matthews stated that he has tried, and that this is the best way to settle the matter. He stated that he does not like this option, but it is the best solution at this point. He added that the Town does not have a water problem, but it does need to address this situation.

Mr. Reilly asked about the fines in the article and whether they are increasing. Mr. Davison stated that the fines are being structured differently. Ms. Miller stated that the article information should be clear that the moisture sensors would be required only for residential systems. Mr. Lunetta asked about enforcement. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that first the Town would send out letters. After sufficient time to get the work done, the Town would begin sending out teams to enforce the requirements.

## **Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 14- Home Rule Petition – Sale of All Alcohol in Restaurants with Fewer Than 100 Seats**

Mr. Matthews stated that alcohol licenses are limited to restaurants with at least 100 seats under the By-Laws. Some restaurants were adding chairs to make sure there were 100 seats. He stated that things are running fine, although there are some restaurants with alcohol licenses that probably do not have 100 seats, and who may not know the rule is on the books. However, under the current By-Laws, the Board of Selectmen cannot transfer a license if there are fewer than 100 seats. He feels that the Board will be able to balance the equities and administer the rule fairly. Mr. Lunetta asked if the Committee felt there was a financial implication. Ms. Miller stated that the change would be good for business.

MOVED: By Mr. Connelly that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 14- Home Rule Petition – Sale of All Alcohol in Restaurants with Fewer Than 100 Seats. Ms. Zappala seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Reilly had left the meeting.)

**Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 17- Appropriate for General Fund Cash Capital**

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town has been checking the costs of the items that were included in the cash capital article in May. She stated they are comfortable with all of the figures except the \$164,000 for the Wireless Municipal Radio Master Box. The Fire Chief has been unable to reconfirm the numbers with vendors, and is not satisfied that the number is correct. Also, there is a possible issue with the current wiring and the I-95 Add-A-Lane project. Mr. Davison stated that the wiring crosses the interstate highway, and the Town does not know the cost of decommissioning the wires. He stated that other communities have been offered State reimbursement for decommissioning wiring. However, since there is uncertainty with the \$164,000 price and the potential for reimbursement, Mr. Davison stated that he is not comfortable going forward with that item.

Mr. Lunetta asked about the timing of the purchase of snow removal equipment. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there is a materials spreader and dump truck that should be purchased together. She stated that there are limited quantities of some of this equipment, so if the funding of those capital items were delayed until FY15, and the equipment was not ordered until July 2014, then the Town may miss the 2014-15 winter season.

Ms. Miller asked for an update on the election equipment. Mr. Davison stated that he spoke to the Town Clerk who told him that if the appropriation is approved, she plans to purchase one piece of equipment, and to beta test it in the next election. If it performs well, she will purchase the remaining equipment for a total of 11 pieces.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant 17- Appropriate for General Fund Cash Capital in the amount of \$1,543,081. Ms. Zappala seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Miller stated that she strongly disagrees with splitting the cash capital and having separate appropriations in the spring and the fall.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Reilly had left the meeting.)

**Free Cash/Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Articles:**

**Article 20- Amend FY2014 Operating Budget**

**Article 23- Appropriate to Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)**

**Article 24- Appropriate to Capital Facility Fund (CFF)**

**Article 25- Appropriate to Athletic Facility Improvement Fund (AFIC)**

Mr. Davison stated that Article 20 will amend the FY14 operating budget. The Debt Service line needs to be amended to reflect debts that were sold prior to June 30, 2013. The debt service costs must be allocated as part of the operating budget, and the premium received will appear in



the local receipts. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Reserve Fund line should be increased to restore the \$75,000 that was used for a deposit for the proposed Chestnut St. property purchase. Ms. Zimbone stated that the discussion of the Retirement Insurance and Insurance Liability Fund line ties in with the three reserve fund articles. The issue is whether to further fund OPEB liabilities or the Town reserves.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she has not spoken to the Board of Selectmen, but that she would support allocating some of the extraordinary Free Cash to OPEB. She stated that she is concerned with the level of funding in the Athletic Facility Improvement Fund because the Town will need to use that within the next 10 years, and they may have underestimated the cost of replacing the turf. She noted that she intended that her Free Cash proposal would be a starting point for discussion. She stated that the proposed \$556,530 for the AFIF was aimed to reach that fund's target level. Mr. Zimbone asked what amount would be saved if the Town were to put all of the funds proposed for the CIF and the CFF (\$101,060 + \$206,617) into OPEB. Mr. Davison stated that for every \$1 that is put into OPEB, there is \$1 that does not generate interest. Therefore, the savings would be 8% compounded. Mr. Zimbone asked if the actuary had estimated the savings that would result from funding an additional amount of OPEB liability over a set number of years. Mr. Davison stated that there are too many moving targets to make such an estimate. Mr. Zimbone asked whether rating agencies preferred funding OPEB or adding to reserves. Mr. Davison stated that they view funding unfunded liabilities as a credit enhancement, and that they also view putting money aside in reserves for special circumstances as a credit enhancement. Ms. Zappala stated that the Town must use its own judgment of what is best for the Town's budgeting needs. She added that she feels better funding OPEB.

Ms. Miller asked whether this should be voted now, and whether it would limit options in the spring. Mr. Davison stated that the amount proposed is not different than the amount that would have been expected to be appropriated last spring. This will still leave almost \$4.5 million for operating budget and cash capital next spring. His recommendation is designate where to put the funds now. It will be better to say that there is more money in reserves when the Town goes to the bonding market. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the target of the CFF is \$1.5 million, and approximately \$206,000 more is needed. She stated that the CIF target is \$750,000, and the balance is over \$600,000.

**MOVED:** By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 25- Appropriate to Athletic Facility Improvement Fund in the amount of \$566,530. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Ms. Miller stated that this would fully fund the target for the AFIF. She stated that the Town will use these funds.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Reilly had left the meeting.)

Mr. Zimbone stated that he would propose that the total funds suggested for the CIF and the CFF, or \$307,677, be put into OPEB. He stated that the budget for the OPEB line item in Article 20 should increase from \$4,727,462 to \$5,035,139. Ms. Zappala asked for input from the Town Manager and the Director of Finance. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she made her initial proposal to get feedback. She would support funding OPEB if the Committee feels that would be better financially. Mr. Davison stated that either funding OPEB or reserves would benefit the Town in different ways. Funding OPEB is addressing a long-term issue. Either approach is acceptable.

Mr. Matthews stated that the OPEB liability is a huge number and will take a long time to deal with. He stated that it may be helpful to chip away at smaller things. He stated that the rating agencies want to see that there is careful planning and that the Town sticks with its plans. Mr. Lunetta asked if either the CIF, or CIF have been drawn upon recently. Mr. Davison stated that as of this date no.

MOVED: By Ms. Miller that the Finance Committee recommend adoption of Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article 20- Amend FY2014 Operating Budget, as follows:

Line 4, Retirement Insurance & Insurance Liability Fund, changing from \$4,727,462 to \$5,035,139

Line 6, Debt Service, changing from \$12,108,851 to \$12,197,287

Line 10, Reserve Fund, changing from \$1,373,243 to \$1,448,243.

Mr. Connelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Reilly had left the meeting.)

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she would recommend withdrawal of Articles 23 and 24.

### **Finance Committee Updates**

Mr. Zimbone praised that the letter from the Chair to Town Meeting Members, and said that he was encouraged that that two members had showed up for this meeting. Mr. Lunetta stated that he attended a recent Personnel Board meeting, and that he feels that there should be some coordination with the Finance Committee and the Personnel Board as the Committee looks into labor issues and staffing levels.

### **Adjourn**

MOVED: By Mr. Connelly that the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned, there being no further business. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Documents: November Special Town Meeting Warrant draft dated September 29, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Mizgerd,  
Executive Secretary/Staff Analyst

*Approved October 9, 2013*