

**Town of Concord  
Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes - June 13, 2021**

**Present:** Ray Andrews, Dean Banfield, Kathy Cuocolo, Greg Guarriello, Mary Hartman, John Hickling, Richard Jamison, Dee Ortner, Parashar Patel, Christine Reynolds, Wade Rubinstein, Phil Swain, Brian Taylor, Lois Wasoff and Andrea Zall

**Absent:** Kathy Cuocolo and Wade Rubenstein

**Others Present:** Recording Secretary Anita Tekle

**Open Meeting**

Ms. Hartman called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm on Sunday, June 13, at the Doug White Field at Concord-Carlisle High School. The purpose of the meeting was for the Finance Committee (FC) to review updated information and to take a position on the revised Articles 9 and 17. Since the meeting was not being held remotely, there was no need to take roll call votes.

**Article 9—FY21 Town Budget Line-Item Adjustments**

Ms. Hartman explained that the scope of Article 9 has expanded. The new adjustments total \$1,045,286 and will transfer between budget line items, keeping the total the same as was originally appropriated. She noted that the FC had voted earlier to unanimously support Article 9 in its original amount.

Mr. Swain made a **MOTION**, which as seconded by Ms. Wasoff, to recommend Affirmative Action on Article 9 in its enlarged scope. The **VOTE** was unanimous, with all voting to recommend Affirmative Action.

Mr. Banfield noted that a resident is proposing an amendment to Article 9 to decrease by \$190,000 the transfer from Line 6 (Public Safety) to Line 2 (Legal Services). This amendment would eliminate the transfer of funds to Line 2.

Ms. Ortner made a **MOTION**, which was seconded by Ms. Wasoff, to recommend **NO ACTION** on the amendment.

During the discussion, Mr. Hickling asked whether it matters if the individual making the amendment is in active litigation with the Town. The consensus was that the FC was not in support of the amendment. A **VOTE** was taken on Ms. Ortner's motion, and it **PASSED** unanimously.

Ms. Hartman read a statement that she prepared in support of the enlarged scope of Article 9, which in essence said that the Town of Concord pays its bills, and the FC does not get involved in picking and choosing which bills to pay. If legal expenses have been incurred, then the Town is obligated to pay the bill. Given that the bottom line of the appropriation has not changed, the proposed line-item transfers are reasonable. Unlike the Schools, the Town is not allowed to transfer between line items without authorization.

### **Article 17 –Appropriate Funds for Affordable Housing Development**

Ms. Hartman asked whether any members wish to reconsider the FC position on Article 17, which is to recommend No Action. The original position was taken due to the relatively low free cash reserves by historical standards; the fact that only \$300,000 has been spent of the \$1 million appropriated from free cash in the past couple of years for affordable housing (leaving an unspent balance of \$700,000); and that other funding sources are available, such as CPC. In recent days, the Concord Housing Development Trust has reported that additional funds have been committed for affordable housing projects from the original \$1 million appropriation, so approximately \$300,000 is remaining. Ms. Hartman polled the members, and no one wished to change his/her original vote, so the FC position is still to recommend No Action on Article 17.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm, just prior to the start of the Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita S. Tekle  
Recording Secretary

Documents Used or Referenced at Meeting:

- Revised Handout for FY21 Town Budget Line-Item Adjustments under Article 9