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Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Place: Lower Town Hall

Finance Committee Members Present:

John Morawski - Chair	P	Richard Napolillo	A	Peter DeMers	P
Lisa Ackerman	P	Raymond Wright	P	John DaLomba	A
Evelyn Marchard	P				

Call to Order: 5:15 pm

Agenda:

- Minutes – None.
- Continuation of public hearing on articles for the spring annual town meeting – There was no public input.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Close Public Hearing	Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

3. Vote Recommendations of Articles

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 2: A1-A18 FY Inter/Intra Departmental Transfers				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: These transfers provide transparency in making budgetary changes from the current fiscal year.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 3: FY 2014 Stabilization Fund Transfer				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: The Finance Committee believes that Snow and Ice expenses should be fully funded as part of the general fund operating budget without reliance on the Stabilization Fund; but realizes absent that option, the expense must be paid.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 4: Town Budget				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: The Finance Committee believes that the FY 2015 operating budget is a fair allocation of available revenue.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 5: CMRPC Per Capita Rate/Appropriation				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Being a member of CMRPC should help foster economic growth in the Town as well as provide for additional grant opportunities.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 6: Revolving Fund Accounts				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: This is a standard article which needs to be accepted annually so that these revolving funds may continue to be used.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 7: Wastewater Department Budget (Enterprise Fund)				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article is required to fund Wastewater enterprise personnel, operating expenses and capital purchases.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 8: Water Department Budget (Enterprise Fund)				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article is required to fund Water enterprise personnel, operating expenses and capital purchases.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 9: Ambulance Division Budget (Enterprise Fund)				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article is required to fund the operation of the Town's ambulance service.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 10: Community Access Television Budget				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article appropriates monies to fund the operation of Cable PEG Access. The Finance Committee would like to see more use of this valuable community resource.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 11: Ambulance Patient Care and Reporting Software				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article will fund the purchase of a much needed upgrade to the ambulance billing software.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 12: Borrowing Authorization: Blackstone Valley Technical School Proposed Expansion				
1 st	RW	2 nd	PD	Vote	2-3-0 MOTION FAILED

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Unfavorable Action	Article 12: Borrowing Authorization: Blackstone Valley Technical School Proposed Expansion				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	3-2-0

Commentary: Members of the Finance Committee who recommended unfavorable action felt that while the actual project cost was affordable, the resulting increase in operational expenses once the addition is complete would have a major impact on future Town budgets. Residents should be aware that a 2/3rd's affirmative vote of the 13 member communities will require the Town to fund the project, even if the vote fails at our Town Meeting. If this occurs, the Finance Committee recommends passage of the debt exclusion question, already on the ballot for the annual election, which will allow the additional costs to be raised via additional taxation. Failure to pass the exclusion will require the debt assessment to be paid from general revenues for the life of the borrowing.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 13: Acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 56 Relative to National Guard Members and Military Reservists Deployed Outside the US				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article, first approved in 2011, is necessary to continue offering a reduction in real estate tax for National Guardsmen or reservists called to duty.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 14: Acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 57 Relative to Seniors Eligible for State Circuit Breaker Tax Credit				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article, first approved in 2011, is necessary to allow senior citizens who take advantage of the state's circuit breaker tax credit, to receive a reduction in their real estate tax.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 15: Pout Pond Recreation Committee				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article will create a town committee that will help in the managing of Pout Pond recreational activities.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 16: Revolving Fund Account for Pout Pond Recreation Activities				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article will reaffirm the revolving account to fund the operating and restoration of Pout Pond.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote: None

No Recommendation	Article 17: Citizen's Petition: Appointment to the Library				
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Commentary: The Moderator has ruled this article out of order, therefore no recommendation from the Finance Committee is needed.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote: None

No Recommendation	Article 18: Citizen's Petition: Amend the Zoning Map				
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Commentary: The Finance Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting due to pending information

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 19: Citizen's Petition: Debt Exclusion – Town Bridges & Culvert Repairs				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	2-3-0 MOTION FAILED

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Unfavorable Action	Article 19: Citizen's Petition: Debt Exclusion – Town Bridges & Culvert Repairs				
1 st	RW	2 nd	PD	Vote	3-2-0

Commentary: Members of the Finance Committee who voted unfavorable action felt that this issue should be addressed as part of a comprehensive capital plan.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion Favorable Action	Article 20: Citizen's Petition: Amend the Zoning Bylaws, Section 400-22 Trailers, Junk Cars, (A) Tourist Camps, Trailer Parks and Construction Trailers				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0

Commentary: Passage of this article will allow for seasonal work campers to maintain a presence at Pout Pond during the outdoor recreation season.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote – None

No Recommendation	Article 21: Audit School Department				
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Commentary: The Moderator has ruled this article out of order, therefore no recommendation from the Finance Committee is needed.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote - None

No Recommendation	Article 22: Citizen's Petition: Lack of Confidence				
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Commentary: The Moderator has ruled this article out of order, therefore no recommendation from the Finance Committee is needed.

4. New Business – None

5. Old Business – None

6. Adjournment: 7:30PM

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	Adjourn meeting				
1 st	RW	2 nd	LA	Vote	5-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
John Morawski	<i>John Morawski</i>	6/4/14
Lisa Ackerman	<i>Lisa Ackerman</i>	6/4/14
John DaLomba		
Peter DeMers	<i>Peter DeMers</i>	04 JUNE 2014
Richard Napolillo	<i>R Napolillo</i>	6-4-14
Ray Wright		
Evelyn Marchard	<i>Evelyn Marchard</i>	6/4/14