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Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 22, 2011

Place: Board of Selectmen Room

Present:

Peter DeMers	P	Mark Andrews	P	Howard Fortner	A
Christine Horwath	P	Ed Maharay	A*	John Morawski	P
Ray Wright	P				

*Mr. Maharay participated in the meeting via Skype.

1. Call to Order: 7:00 PM
2. Minutes: A review of the previous meeting's minutes was tabled until next meeting.
3. Town Charter Review: The Finance Committee discussed the current Town Charter in preparation for a meeting with the Charter Review Committee, scheduled to be held on April 6, 2011. The Finance Committee will present its recommendations for the Town Charter to the Charter Review Committee at the April 6th meeting. The Chairman planned to consolidate the recommendations of the Finance Committee on to a single document.

In general, discussion covered those aspects of the Charter that pertain to the Finance Committee and the financial dealings of the Town of Uxbridge. A summary of this discussion follows.

Receipt of Warrant Articles: The consensus of the Committee is that the Finance Committee ought only to make recommendations on those Warrant Articles that impact Town finances.

Multi-Member Boards: Under the current Charter, Multi-Member Boards have the ability to by-pass the Town's annual budgeting process and take monetary requests directly to Town Meeting. The concerns here are that such Articles or Amendments to Articles, if passed, have no funding considerations in the Town's annual budget, are not subject to prudent review by the Finance Committee, and can result in an unbalanced Town budget. Additionally, neither Town Department heads nor the Town Manager has been granted this authority. The Charter ought to create a

process to grant appropriate oversight to a situation that might result in an extreme budget imbalance, such as this one, at Town Meeting.

Town Officers: The consensus of the Finance Committee was that Town Officers should not serve on more than one of the following boards at one time: Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee.

Board of Selectmen: While some members of the Finance Committee would like to see more financial planning and foresight for the Town's financial well-being than day-to-day involvement in managing the Town's budget, others questioned whether this issue is one on which the Finance Committee should comment, as it may be more a description in the Charter on the role of the Board of Selectmen.

School Committee and School Budgeting: Often times, when the school budget is made, the State has not issued its final reimbursement amounts. A more detailed line-by-line budget is desirable to understand budgetary priorities and necessities.

Town Manager: The underlying sentiment of the Finance Committee seemed to be that the role of the Town Manager ought to be better defined relative to the role of the Board of Selectmen with regard to the operational, day-to-day functioning of the Town's business. Examples include a more well-defined expectation for job performance than the current standard of "efficient, effective, and economical," greater involvement with School Committee, more involvement in collective bargaining with Town employees, and authority to handle the responsibilities assigned to the office under the "Maintenance and Repair" section of the job description for this position.

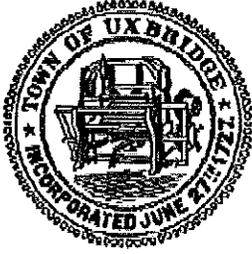
Modernization of Means by which to Communicate with the Citizenry: The Charter and the Town would benefit by more modern means of communication by which to disseminate information. The more frequently prescribed method is publication in a local newspaper, which is antiquated, more costly, and less efficient than alternative forms of communication that are now available.

4. Old Business: None.

5. New Business: None.

6. Adjournment:
Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn meeting at 9:15 pm.				
1 st	CH	2 nd	JM	Vote	5-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Peter DeMers		04/05/2011
Mark Andrews		04/05/2011
Howard Fortner		
Christine Horwath		
Ed Maharay		
John Morawski		04/05/2011
Ray Wright		04/05/2011

