

Finance Committee
Tuesday, March 3, 2016
Rockport Police Station – 7pm
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Laurene Wessel; Beth Dailey; Ian Crown; Wally Hess; June Michaels; Roger Levine; Melissa Tingley; Mike Hughes

Absent: Vice Chair, Bill Wagner

Also present: Selectperson Erin Battistelli; Town Administrator Linda Sanders, Assistant Town Administrator Mitch Vieira; Tom Davis; Rick Doucette; Peter Beacham

MOTION: Mr. Levine made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/24/16, Mr. Hughes seconded, vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed. So moved.

Rick Doucette, Executive Director of Teen and Camp Services at the Cape Ann YMCA, attended the meeting to present an update on the youth center. He informed the Committee that up to 75 teens from Rockport and Gloucester are regular visitors to the center. For some it serves as a drop in center (a home away from home), others enjoy many of the activities offered such as sledding nights and movie nights. They have also traveled to Nicaragua and New Orleans to help with the clean up of Hurricane Katrina. He said the teens really love to help others in this way. They also volunteer over 6000 hours of community service.

Tom Davis also spoke in favor of the teen center, and emphasized its benefit to the town of Rockport. He feels strongly the center is an important community asset.

Ms. Sanders initiated a discussion on community development as she recently took a one day “crash course” on it, and has a better understanding of it now. The Board of Selectmen established the Economic Development Committee (EDC) as a department. Their primary mission was to improve the life of Rockport residents. Shalin Liu started things off for community development.

It is a way to advertise the town through others such as writers and public relation people, Ms. Sanders does not want Rockport to die out, and she feels it is important for people to learn about Rockport. She is very much in favor of funding this line item.

Selectperson Battistelli said the Board of Selectmen support full funding. They feel it is a great investment in the town's future. She explained how other communities are funding their own town community development. She noted a paid employee would have the time to keep up with social media, and other opportunities to promote the town through initiatives and grants.

Ms. Michaels pointed out the difficulty of quantifying the success of community development.

Mr. Beachem spoke briefly on his support for funding this item.

MOTION: Mr. Levine made a motion to approve a budget of \$60,543 for the community development line item, Mr. Hughes seconded, vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed. So moved.

MOTION: Mr. Hess made a motion to appropriate \$200,077 to the reserve fund in the fiscal 2017 budget, Ms. Michaels seconded, vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed. So moved.

MOTION: Mr. Hess made a motion to appropriate \$233,450 to legal fees and expenses, Mr. Hughes seconded, vote was 8 in favor 0 opposed. So moved.

MOTION: Mr. Hess made the motion to appropriate \$2,500 to be used for printing and mailing the Finance Committee letter which will be sent to voters prior to spring town meeting, Ms. Wessel seconded, vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed. So moved.

Ms. Wessel proceeded to divide up the warrant articles for members to research:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Article A | Mr. Hughes |
| Article B | Mr. Levine |
| Article C | Mr. Wagner |
| Article D, E, F | Ms. Michaels and Mr. Wagner |
| Article G | Mr. Hess |
| Article H | Ms. Michaels |
| Article I | Mr. Wagner |
| Article J | Mr. Hess/Mr. Wagner |
| Article K | Mr. Hess and Ms. Tingley |

Annual Town Meeting Warrants:

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Do not to speak to this |
| 2 | Hold |
| 3 | Mr. Levine |
| 4 | Mr. Crown |
| 5 | Ms. Wessel |
| 6 | Ms. Michaels and Mr. Wagner |
| 7 | Mr. Wagner |
| 8. | Ms. Dailey |
| 8 | Mr. Hess |
| G | Ms. Michaels |
| H | Mr. Hess |
| I | Mr. Levine |
| J | Mr. Levine |
| K | Hold for now |
| Q | Mr. Crown |

Mr. Hess mentioned help will be needed to address, label, and mail the letter going out to the community. Ms. Wessel said she will look into finding some young volunteers to help.

Ms. Wessel will send out an agenda for next Wednesday's meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Wessel made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Levine seconded, vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed.