

Minutes from Finance Committee Meeting
10/21/2013

Chairman Wally Hess called the meeting to order at 7pm in the Brenner Library Room. Also present were Frank Hassler, June Michaels, Laurene Wessel, Carl Engel, Mike Lamoureux, Mike Hughes, Bill Wagner and David Coyne.

Minutes from the October 7th meeting were reviewed. After brief discussion of changes, they were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

Long Beach discussion:

The data on Long Beach residents' home ownership profiles was discussed. Mike Lamoureux, and Mike Hughes expressed the view that the draft in question went beyond what the Committee should become involved with. Frank Hassler compared the process for achieving committee consensus on papers to be published on the Town Website in the Facts & Trends section with that used to draft the home ownership profiles and suggested the former approach was preferable. The Committee voted to table further discussion about Long Beach until asked to do so by the Board of Selectmen.

New Format Discussion for Letter to the Voters for ATM

Wally's latest draft was discussed and the members generally agreed with the approach. June suggested that a Key Issues section should be follow after the introductory paragraphs. Discussion of what those issues might be for the upcoming budget included Unfunded Liabilities for retirement and Other Post Employment Benefits, School Financing, and the Town's Long Range Capital Needs. The status of stabilization funds was also suggested.

Mike Lamoureux felt that brief bullet-like statements were more desirable than extended talking points. Wally suggested the prime objective was to explain to the voters why the ATM was an important meeting to attend and to do it in such a way that in the ensuing years there would be a clear documentation of what was authorized and why.

Mike Lamoureux, Carl Engel and Frank Hassler reported on their meeting with Rob Liebow and members of the School Committee on the status of development of the FY2015 school budget. The committee agreed with Carl, that details of the discussion should follow the presentation to the full School Committee in Mid-November.

The next meeting will be Nov. 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.