

Dennis Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2007
Dennis Town Hall, Hearing Room
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Attendees: Finance Committee Members: James Plath, Peter McDowell, Ted Dumas, William Crowell, Michael Brennan, Robert Prall and Rachel Baroni. Board of Selectmen: Jane Otis, Heidi Schadt and Paul McCormick. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi and Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Petition Article Old King's Highway Special Legislation, Article #52

Robert Canevazzi stated that Old King's Highway Commission recently met and decided to withdraw the proposed article.

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to indefinitely postpone the article. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved that Article # 52 be postponed. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

Connect CTY Article # 45

Mr. Dan Peterson, Vice President of NTI Group, addressed the attendees to provide a presentation of the communication service.

Robert Canevazzi stated that this is an emergency notification system that can be used for both emergency and non-emergency purposes. It has the ability to instantously communicate with all residents in the Town of Dennis.

Mr. Dan Peterson said you can operate this system to communicate with your entire population within a matter of minutes regardless of where you are to address the situation at anytime. This communication system can provide the right message to the right people at the right time. Mr. Peterson said we have over 11,000 clients. There are 27 storms predicted for this hurricane season. We have several service agreements with telephone service providers in order to provide the service. Connect CTY does all the hosting and manages all the data. We provide unlimited communication to all departments within the community. Mr. Peterson then provided some examples of messages that have been used in other communities. There is no cost per call. It is important to communicate before, during and after an event. The uses are almost endless. You can send a message from almost anywhere. Mr. Peterson reviewed how a user would place an outgoing call.

Jane Otis asked how the program would know residents' cell phone and email addresses.

Mr. Peterson explained that this information is strictly voluntary. The data can be inputted on a website. In addition, if citizens want to opt out, they have this option.

The price includes unlimited users, unlimited calls and unlimited training. It is all included in the one price for 3 years.

Jim Plath asked how the long distance calls would impact to the Town.

Mr. Peterson replied that there would be no financial impact on the Town.

Peter McDowell stated that he has several lines for his business. He asked if he would be protected from getting all these damn calls all the time. He added that he has no interest in receiving any. Also, what is the liability for the violation of the "do not call" law.

Mr. Peterson explained that those numbers would be placed in a "do not call" data base. If they are private numbers, we can not access that information unless you volunteer the information.

Peter McDowell asked what the difference is between a public and private number.

A private number is a non-published number.

Mr. Dan Peterson stated if you do not wish to receive the messages, then you would access the web portal and indicate that this address does not wish to receive calls.

Bill Crowell said he is concerned with the authorization.

Mr. Peterson stated that Town Administration authorizes the users.

Police Chief Michael Whalen stated that he has been working with the county on providing a county-wide communication system. These efforts on a county communication system were not possible due to financial constraints. However, it is very exciting to consider purchasing this communication system for the Town of Dennis. Chief Whalen stated that the whole Town can be notified within 5-10 minutes. Some other systems take much longer.

Robert Canevazzi stated that the Water District is also very interested in the program.

Michael Brennan asked Mr. Canevazzi if he has spoken with any other towns about the program.

Mr. Canevazzi stated that he has been working with John Klimm in Barnstable.

Mr. Peterson stated that the Town of Westwood has funded their program with cable funds. The contract is a 3-year term with the option to opt out every year.

Bob Prall asked Chief Whalen if he could think of some instances that occurred recently that might have benefited from the program.

Police Chief Michael Whalen stated that there have been missing persons, road closures, structure fires, sexual offenders and road reconfiguration for road work.

Paul McCormick asked what are the top 5 reasons the program is used.

Dan Peterson stated that it is used to announce infrastructure repairs, parking bans, hydrant flushing and road work. He stated that he could see Dennis residents using it to announce special events or detour traffic.

Sandra Fife suggested the Selectmen use funds from free cash, then use \$20,000.00 from Article 4 and use \$5,000.00 from free cash.

Robert Canevazzi stated that there needs to be a lot of public education about the program.
The Town will need to develop use policies and perform public relations.

Jim Plath asked about other sources of funding.

Robert Canevazzi stated that cable funds may be a stretch.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to support Article # 45 from free cash. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend indefinite postponement of Article # 45. Robert Prall seconded.

Michael Brennan stated that he would like to hear from some other towns that have the program.

Peter McDowell stated that he offered the negative vote because he can get the information that he needs from the internet and newspaper. He added that he can't buy the idea just yet.

William Crowell said we need to look at this more closely. He stated that he is not sure the community is ready to receive all these calls.

Ted Dumas stated that he also supports the concept, but more research is needed.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to table the Article until April 30th. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to rescind the previous vote. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to support Article #45 and to raise and appropriate the funding. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

AFSCME Contract, Articles #21 & #22

Chief Whalen reviewed changes to the contract and clarified item # 7 in the contract.

Motion:

Ted Dumas moved to support Article #21 in the amount of \$95,000. Bill Crowell seconded the Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to support Article #22 in the amount of \$83,000. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

By-Walk Easement for Rte 134 Article #38

Joe Rodricks, Town Engineer, stated that there wasn't enough space to create the by-walk in front of Homer Ln. as this was privately owned property. The nine property owners have granted easements to the Town. It is approximately 3,000 sq. ft in total area.

Bill Crowell inquired as to whether all the signatures have been acquired.

Joe Rodricks stated that he has all the signatures.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article #38 as printed. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Bridge Street Lay Out, Article #39

Joe Rodricks, Town Engineer stated that the 1835 layout was not sufficient. The Town now needs a 40 ft. right away. There are 9 parcels involved. The parcels are really not impacted.

Peter McDowell questioned whether or not this will create any non-conforming lots. He added that the Town may need to compensate the property owners.

Joe Rodricks stated that we have spoken with all the property owners with the exception of one and most have been receptive.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article #39 as printed. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article # 53 Bridge Street Grant

Joe Rodricks, explained that State Representative Cleon Turner was successful in getting \$125,000.00 ear marked in the current bond bill that is processed through Mass. Highway.

Joe Rodricks stated that the Town will need an appropriation in order to enter into an agreement with Mass. Highway. The Town will be reimbursed after we spend the money.

Peter McDowell asked if the Town will need to fund an additional \$150,000.00 for this project.

Joe Rodricks stated that he doesn't believe the Town will need additional funding. However, he is not the right person to answer the question.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to place Article #53 on the warrant and to support the Article as amended. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to approve Article #53 as amended. Bill Prall seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article # 25 DPW Building Construction Balance

Sandra Fife stated that the settlement with the surety company was in the amount of \$109,822.75. The Town's responsibility is in the amount of \$19,014.75. The remaining balance is \$128,837.50. The available funds that can be applied to the construction of the new Police Department are in the amount of \$52,449.00.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend the transfer of \$52,449.00 for the purpose of Article #25. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to support Article #25. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article #11, Old Bills

Sandra Fife stated that the amount of this Article has changed to the amount of \$11,720.00.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to support Article #11. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend to the Town Meeting for the purpose of Article #11 the amount of \$15,390.79 of which we will transfer \$3,670.79 from free cash, and transfer \$11,720.00 to group insurance. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article #46, Petition Acceptance of 32B section D

Sandra Fife stated that the Board of Selectmen has spoken with the petitioners. The Selectmen have voted to indefinitely postpone the Article. The Selectmen will bring the Article back during the fall Town Meeting.

Michael Brennan asked if it is possible to get the potential cost to the Town over time. He added that he would like to see what an actuary study looks like.

Sandra Fife stated that she would need to have funding to provide an in-depth study.

Robert Canevazzi stated that we have the funding for the GASB 45 Article that we may be able to use for this type of study.

Michael Brennan asked if the benefit would continue if the spouse re-married.

Robert Canevazzi stated that he would look into the details.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to indefinitely postpone Article #45. Michael Brennan seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article #54, Capital Improvement Fund

There was a consensus from the Finance Committee to leave the Article on the warrant and to indefinitely postpone the Article at Town Meeting.

Article # 5, D-Y School Budget

Jim Plath suggested changing the Article to read as follows; The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0 not to recommend a school budget of \$46,070,128 or to raise and appropriate \$13,328,140.64, or transfer \$27,446.38 from Article 6 of the May 7, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, for a total assessment of \$13,806,856 or not to recommend the Proposition 2 ½ over-ride in the amount of \$451,268.98.

Motion:

Peter McDowell Moved to recommend the Article as amended. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article # 14, Medicare Reimbursement Revolving Fund

Sandra Fife stated that the language was changed in the article.

(Board of Selectmen)

Motion:

Heidi Schadt moved to support Article #14, as amended. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article # 14 as printed. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

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Article #40, South Dennis Historic District Commission

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to make a recommendation at Town Meeting.

9:00 P.M.

(Finance Committee)

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to adjourn. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

(Board of Selectmen)

Heidi Schadt moved to adjourn. Paul McCormick seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0. The motion was carried.