



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE
155 Village Street
Medway MA 02053

Monday, May 10, 2021 – 6:30 PM
Medway High School, Room 113-1
88 Summer Street

Present: Todd Alessandri, Chair; Frank Rossi, Vice Chair; Ellen Hillery, Clerk; Brian Cowan; Jeff O'Neill; Michael Schrader; Sue Segarra.

Absent: Will Lane; Jim Sullivan.

Staff Present: None.

Others Present: Larry Ellsworth, Citizens' Petition group; Glenn Trindade, Select Board.

Call to Order

At 6:32 PM Chairman Alessandri called the regular meeting to order, noting that seven members were present in the meeting room. There was no remote participation component for this meeting. He reviewed the items on the agenda. There will also be a representative to speak on the Citizens' Petition so the order of agenda items may change.

Vote TBD (To Be Determined) Designations on Warrant Articles: Special Town Meeting Article 1 and Annual Town Meeting Article 31

After discussion, Mr. O'Neill made a motion to recommend Article 1 as presented; Mr. Cowan seconded. No further discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Cowan, aye; Hillery, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Schrader, aye; Segarra, aye).

Regarding Article 31, the committee wanted to wait until Mr. Ellsworth arrived to hear his comments on the merits of the Citizens' Petition. In the meantime, Chairman Alessandri briefly reviewed the components of the article, mostly concerns about the seeming lack of information on this new technology. In addition, residents wanted more information on how the facility would be situated on the site. Lastly, there was a suggestion for a one-year moratorium. As part of the revised article, a committee will be formed to request and secure additional information and issue a report back to the Town. Mr. Ellsworth was now present to answer any additional questions.

Mr. Ellsworth reported that the Planning Board will be the entity to supervise the committee and

development of the report. Everything will be shared publicly. Responding to a question from Mr. Schrader, he stated that the original thought was that the Zoning Bylaws needed to be updated when, in fact, they did not. A proposed zoning change was deleted from the current Warrant. The Petition was tethered to that change, and subsequent update to action around the Petition was necessary. Brief discussion followed during which it was noted that the Town will be learning how other communities are handling these facilities, the financial implications, history of the initiative and related concerns. Tonight's vote is on the updated motion which does not include a moratorium. Therefore, the motion will be coming from the floor, and not the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ellsworth exited the meeting at 6:47 PM. Brief discussion followed. At 6:54 PM Chairman Alessandri exited the meeting room to get a Select Board member to answer questions regarding financial implications of the Citizens Petition. Vice Chair Rossi took over the meeting.

Assignment of Special Town Meeting Motions

The committee reviewed a document listing proposed Town Meeting motions.

While waiting for Chairman Alessandri to return, Vice Chair Rossi assigned the motions for Special Town Meeting.

At 6:55 PM Chairman Alessandri returned to the meeting with Mr. Glenn Trindade, Chair of the Select Board. Mr. Trindade briefly explained recent events relative to Article 31. State Representative Jeff Roy serves as Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy at the state level; Medway is a community that is part of Representative Roy's district. Rep. Roy has been working hard to learn about the technology related to battery electric storage systems. As this is new technology, additional information is being sought by a number of Medway citizens. The revised motion related to the Citizen's Petition will come from Town Meeting floor. It will propose a more detailed review by experts, including a study and other actions toward the development of a report by the Planning and Economic Development Board. Brief discussion followed. The question was raised whether a vote of the Finance Committee was necessary, given that it was not presenting the motion. Chairman Alessandri theorized that support from the Finance Committee is important from one perspective, acknowledging that the proposed motion represents a good compromise of action. Other members expressed concern about the source of funding for these activities.

Mr. Rossi made a motion to support the Citizens' Petition (Article 31) as written in the proposed motion; Mr. Cowan seconded. Discussion followed. Mr. Rossi amended his motion to add the stipulation that the Finance Committee has questions and concerns about the sources of funding for the review study, hiring of consultants, etc. suggested in the motion; Mr. Cowan seconded the amended motion. No further discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Cowan, aye; Hillery, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Schrader, aye; Segarra, aye).

It was noted that, in the interest of time and getting to Special Town Meeting, Mr. Rossi will assign the Annual Town Meeting motions and let members know once they are seated.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

In order to get to Special Town Meeting, review of the April 14, 2021 minutes was postponed.

Adjourn

At 7:02 PM Mr. Rossi made a motion to adjourn and attend Special and Annual Town Meetings; Mr. Cowan seconded. No discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Cowan, aye; Hillery, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Schrader, aye; Segarra, aye).

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt*