

**Town of Acton Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2016
Room 204 – Acton Town Hall – 7:30 PM**

In attendance: Chairman Michael Majors, Vice Chair Margaret Busse, Roland Bourdon, Bob Evans, Jason Cole, Shuyu Lee, Steve Noone and David Wellinghoff.

Absent: Doug Tindal.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Majors at 7:34PM

There was no public comment.

Chapter 70 Resolution Discussion: Kristina Rychlik – Chair Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee (ABRSC)

Kristina presented the Chapter 70 Study commissioned by the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission.

The ABRSC voted to support a resolution calling for full funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission and their recommendations.

This is being supported due to the ever increasing costs that are borne by towns and cities of the commonwealth.

Mike Majors commented on the committee's view that will be given to Town Meeting next Monday and the need for additional funding from the Commonwealth.

Margret Busse stated that she is in full support of the resolution.

Shuyu Lee asked if a mandate could affect the town in other ways on the municipal side that are not apparently present at this time.

Paul Murphy ABRSC commented that Chapter 70 funding already takes into account the wealth of a community. Chapter 70 increased on average 1.6% last year and Acton's increase was .016% .

Steve Noone motioned that the Finance Committee support this resolution. Jason Cole seconded.

The FinCom voted unanimously in support of the resolution.

Zoning Articles:

Article 29 – Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartments: Discussion centered around if a homeowner could build an accessory apartment and rent it to anybody, unintended consequences. The article states that apartment could be used for rental.

Bob Evans moved that the FinCom take not recommend the article. David Wellinghoff seconded.

All voted in favor of not reccomend the article

Article 30 – Amend Zoning Bylaw – Regulation of Common Drives:

Roland Bourdon moved to approve. Steve Noone seconded. All voted in favor to recommend.

Article 31 – Amend Zoning Bylaw – Definition of Family:

David Wellinghoff to take no action. Margaret Busse seconded. All voted in favor to take no action.

Article 10 – Authorize Debt Issuance - Minuteman Regional School District (MRSD):

Selectwoman Adachi briefly spoke to the FinCom about Article 10 **Authorize Debt Issuance –**. Many towns have Town Meeting later than Acton. Concord's is the same night as Acton's. Selectwoman Adachi will be presenting Article 10 at Town Meeting. There has been a lack of outreach by MRSD. Enrollment from Acton is increasing.

League of Women Voters is having a meeting tomorrow night to go over the town warrant articles.

Margaret Busse stated that she is concerned with this article not passing at town meeting due to the lack of outreach on this article and that we are lacking information six days out from Town Meeting to make an informed decision.

Shuyu Lee also had concerns with the projections for enrollment in MRSD and ABRSD going forward.

Jason Cole pointed out that we are now backed into a corner to support this.

Selectwoman Adachi pointed out that if any of the member towns vote to not approve then this will have to go a ballot (same day each town) majority vote. The other option was to not put it on the warrant and after 60 days after town meeting it would automatically be counted as an approval.

Steve Noone also state that he is not impressed with the lack of information surrounding this article.

Margaret Busse asked if a member of the MRSD School Committee or Administration meet with the committee at our next meeting (before town meeting on April 4th)

Chairman Majors is going to reach out to get someone to come meet with FinCom prior to Town Meeting and to obtain the missing financial information.

David Wellinghoff asked if we could motion to move the article to the second night of town meeting so we had time to review the financials that are currently lacking.

Steve Noone indicated that the Town Moderator could move the article and that when Chairman Majors attends his Pre-Town Meeting that this maybe a possibility.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doug Tindal was not present so no prior meeting minutes were voted on.

FinCom Chair presentation to Town Meeting:

Reserves Use needs to be updated to be certified and the amount, as well as the ABRSD Excess and Deficiency certified amount.

Margaret Busse pointed out that Chairman Majors presentation does not need to be lengthy and should be directed to the concerns of the FinCom.

Steve Noone commented about the Capital Studies should be included

Jason Cole indicated that the chairman should mention that there is substantial needs coming due in the near future with capital projects on the not so distant horizon.

David Wellinghoff and Margaret Busse that we need to show the long range plan to some extent.

Margaret Busse said to keep it simple and straight forward. She also updated the committee on her comments that will be made at town meeting regarding Kelly's Corner.

Next Meeting: Pre-Town Meeting: 6PM April 4th, ABRSD High School. (room to be advised), then Town Meeting. Main Topic Article 10.

Roland Bourdon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve Noone. All voted in favor to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM

Respectfully submitted,
Roland Bourdon