

Finance Committee Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting 9/26/2019

Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members present: Chairman Allen Rugg, Tom Murphy, Mark Foster

Also present: Town Administrator Jeffrey Madison

- The meeting began at 10:04am.

- First on the agenda was the review of minutes. Tom moved to approve the 7/15/19 minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mark. **The Committee voted 3-0, the motion passed.**

- Next, the Committee reviewed two articles on the October 8<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Article One - Transfer of \$125,000 from the Stabilization Account to the FY2020 Legal Budget: Money will pay Town Counsel to affirm the District Court to compel the Tribe to apply for building permits for the casino (District Court decision has been appealed by the Tribe). Jeffrey informed the Committee that this amount will be sufficient. Legal Counsel has committed to do the work at a reduced rate. To date the Town has expended approx. \$49,000 of the \$90,000 legal counsel budget to a third-party Legal Counsel covering the Tribe litigation (this does not include Town Counsel payments). There was brief discussion concerning other Town suits that Town Counsel has been covering. Fin Comm took the position of supporting this article but stated that they don't look at it as an open-ended commitment or a commitment for future litigation; this is only to deal with this appeal. Allen made a motion that the Finance Committee recommends Article One. Motion was seconded by Tom. **The Committee voted 3-0, the motion passed.**

Article Two – Transfer \$8,990 from the Stabilization Account to fund Town's share of the FY2020 maintenance cost of the State-funded upgrades to the Dukes County Regional Emergency Communication Center and Radio System: This article dates back to the Annual Town Meeting. Two requests had been submitted to the Town for the ATM and only one was added to the warrant. This article is picking up the shortfall of the Town's agreement to the Dukes County Regional Emergency Communication Center and Radio System. Tom moved to recommend the article. Motion was seconded by Mark. **The Committee voted 3-0, the motion passed.**

Allen informed the Committee that the Special Town Meeting will be rescheduled to October 15<sup>th</sup>. Assuming that the articles pass, there will be approx. \$200,000 in the Stabilization Fund (this should be confirmed with the Town Accountant). If the Town owned lot on Lighthouse Road is sold between now and the Annual Town Meeting, there will be an article requesting to put the money from the sale against the money that has been taken from the Stabilization Fund. The Committee discussed the Lighthouse Road lot and Article Three on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

- With no other business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. **The Committee voted 3-0 in favor. The motion passed.** The meeting ended at 10:23am

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Sophia Welch, Board Administrative Assistant*