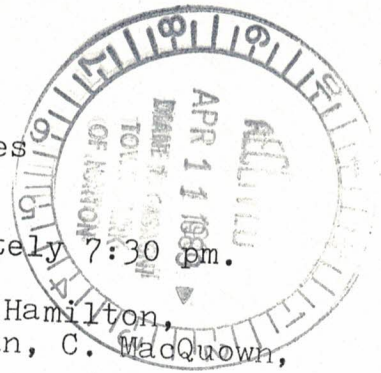


Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 1989



The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm.

Present: M. Brown, K. Eagan, M. Hackett, E. Hamilton,  
P. Helmreich, B. Kimball, L. MacLean, C. MacQuown,  
R. Nugent, D. Ward

S. Lombard request reconsideration of the Engineering Technician. He notes that the Board of Selectmen unanimously support the proposal. S. Lombard notes his disappointment that there was no discussion after budget hearing regarding the proposal and that only one Finance Committee member noted his concerns or disapproval. Note that all Boards and Committees involved are in agreement. S. Lombard reviews proposal. Notes need in other Towns is the same and the same type of position may be instituted. Because of cost, and Engineer with stamp was not proposed. Review of problems that occur without this type of position. Need coordinator to eliminate frustration and for follow through. Also S. Lombard wants Committee members to come before him if they feel that all employees are not doing their jobs. Position will enable a smoother running operation. All current positions are working to their potential. S. Lombard notes his right by contract to reorganize departments and rearrange duties. He states that this position will better answer the public need.

B. Kimball notes letters of support for Engineering Technician received by Committee and reads letter noting the need for a certified Engineer and problem that can occur.

B. Andrews requests reconsideration and states that Tyler's letter is too imaginative for the Town to hire an Engineer. He notes that it is too costly to have employee researching the same project as the developer. A Single person coordinating will save funds in legal fees and taxpayer's monies. He feels that an engineer is not needed to research plans and that the developers need to do their own plans.

M. Brooks notes agreement.

Planner notes support and notes coordination is not part of any of the current positions, therefore, is not being done. Position will also speed up plans. Assistant Planner was proposed to do plan approvals so Planner can do long-range planning. Also that there will be one person to interpret the zoning bylaws and get one decision.

S. Lombard notes full cooperation of Planning Board, Board of Health, Inspection and Conservation Commission. Currently there is uncontrolled growth and unlimited permits.

S. Lombard notes that it will take time to solve all the current problems but that this will be the first step.

K. Eagan questions autonomous boards and cooperation with Engineering Technician.

E. Hamilton notes position is a Grand coordinator.

Review of need for Engineering background. Need for more documentation and better follow through.



P. Helmreich notes his feelings: that the position is a coordinator/facilitator. Should take advantage now since all Boards agree and all Chief Dept persons ie Planner, Health Agent, Conservation Director also agree. He also notes the lack of support from the Inspector. P. Helmreich also notes the pending passage of the Charter and notes the performances of a Full Engineer vs a sub-professional.

S. Lombard notes that the employees who work under him will be shown the benefits of the position.  
P. Helmreich notes the individual will have no power to enforce but can notify the Boards to do the enforcement.

M. Hackett notes her rejection of funding and notes the unpredictability of State funding. She feels it is a wait and see time.

Discussion of newspaper quotes of D. Ward.

S. Lombard notes that the Town cannot wait in light of happenings.

C. MacQuown notes unknown costs, high spending and variables.

S. Lombard notes EQV is based on different time periods; property values raised valuations. Increase due to growth. Review of added growth and calculations. He sees no reason for an override. He has asked the State to do a 3 year revenue and expense review.

Planning Board member notes strong support of position due to Town's people problems, Planning Board problems and future need.

Mr. Zanoni notes Building Inspector's responsibilities and lack of communication between Boards. He states he would like to see a certified Engineer in the position.

J. Schneider notes Building Inspector must under State law have right to inspect but does not control the office administration. He also notes the problems of Town's people and developers.

J. Schneider states the growth has caused no time to do any planning; should have plans for 5 years.

L. MacLean questions hiring consultant to draft up a policy and procedure manual.

Discussion of SRPEDD.

Review of 152 W Main Street property.

Review of Building Inspector duties of issuing an occupancy permit after the building is built. Issue of building permit and zoning enforcement performed by Building Inspector discussed.

D. Owens notes problem between department and recommends hiring and Engineer with stamp for future Town needs.

Transfer request

S. Lombard requests \$4438 for printing, \$3778, and postage, \$660, for Charter. Must be printed. To be mailed by 4-5-89.

ATM #11

S. Lombard notes capital expenditures can wait until October STM in order to know the fiscal situation and State funds.

Top priority - LG Nourse fire alarm system.

P. Helmreich question School Department items b & c. States these are petition articles.

S. Lombard notes they were submitted by the School Committee. Petition articles need to follow channels through the Town Clerk. S. Lombard will call Superintendent. He will remove if not done properly.

P. Helmreich requests information on articles. He feels the Committee needs to recommend or not and then decide what can be deferred.

S. Lombard notes he can hold off on Architect fees. Renovations will include extending floors, HVAC system, heating system, boiler capacity increase, roofing. He will return funds for patchwork projects and do a one time refurbishing of Municipal Center. Return funds for roofs, \$85,000, and insulating, painting, \$20,000.

P. Helmreich notes future costs. What could be done vs. what needs to be done. HVAC engineered plans are \$ 8-9,000. Balance problem due to open floor plan. Also need for additional space. Costs would be bonded. Current bond items will be maturing next year, therefore, a bond would be feasible.

ATM #14

Prior year's bills - \$9,328.91

Dorrance - \$6,484.94. Sturdy Memorial Hospital - \$2,843.97.

S. Lombard notes question of double payment to Dorrance. If not answered, Committee should take appropriate action.

Sturdy Memorial Hospital bill for police officer injured on duty. Originally paid by Blue Cross but taken back due to 'injured on duty'.

ATM #15

Land gift. Property adjacent to Barrows Street bridge. Will enable to do rebuilding and straightening of bridge.

ATM #16

Contract article in case of contract settlement of Police, to enable transfer of funds.

S. Lombard notes the audit was requested when the deficit occurred to prevent it in the future. The audit did not have to do with Personnel Board request or personnel payroll payments.

ATM #17

To increase charges for Town Clerk's services. A study and survey was done by Mass Town Clerk's Association. Last change in 1980-1981. To adopt the fee schedule, a uniform fee schedule. Monies return to E&D.

C. MacQuown questions fees being waived for taxpayers.

P. Helmreich notes revenue from people outside of Town.

D. Casagni notes that the fees are not new. There are ongoing expenses such as storing of records and maintaining, bounding records.

B. Kimball requests current fee schedule



ATM #20

Petition article.

To allow Selectmen to auction off property, lot 30, Samoset Street. P. Martin owns land adjacent and behind (lot 21, 22, 23, 31 & 32) His home is on lot 32.

Map shows paper street.

Article is not to sell but to auction.

Land was taken for taxes in 1982. Is not a buildable lot.

Approx 4800 sq ft. Dead end Street.

Selectmen have the authority but this will force them to auction.

B. Kimball notes request for funds to be placed back in Fire expense account. Increase is not due to postage but to office supplies. Currently not using account 375 postage.

Consensus - to use #375 account

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 pm until 3-15-89 at approximately 7:30 pm.