

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2009
Sturbridge Senior Center
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with the following members present: Kevin Smith (KS), Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Serio (MS), Priscilla Gimias (PG) and Patricia Affenito (PA).
Virginia (VS) arrives at 7:15pm and Bob Williams (BW) arrives at 7:25pm.

Motion to approve the 2/10/09 meeting minutes, as amended to correct the spelling of TIF, made by MS, seconded by LM, so moved 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the 2/12/09 meeting minutes, as written, made by LM, seconded by MS, so moved 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the 2/19/09 meeting minutes, as written, made by LM, seconded by MS, so moved 4-0-1.

7:15pm - 8:50pm: Kevin MacConnell and Patricia Affenito (Residents and Sturbridge business owners) - Proponents of ATM Articles 29, 30 & 31. PA steps down from FinCom for this discussion and vote.

Motion to approve ATM Article 29- Sturbridge Tourist Association, as amended by the BOS, made by VS, seconded by MS, so moved 6-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article 30- Revolving Fund: Sturbridge Tourist Association, as amended by the BOS, made by VS, seconded by MS, so moved 6-0-0.

FinCom requests that the proponents present an alternative budget for the tourist funds in ATM Article 31 to work for the newly created Sturbridge Tourist Association and present this on 3/5 or 3/10.

PG discusses education budget issues and concerns:

- TRSD Junior High has no Room to Office phone capability. This is a safety concern if there is a threat in the building or a person of concern, there is no way to warn the rooms without warning the intruder.
- This phone system would cost \$18,000 to install.
- The Superintendent does not feel this is a safety issue; however, the Principal does.
- PG suggests that the Carpet & Tile project at \$14,000 could be put on hold (as a suggestion) to provide funding this year for the phone installation.
- TRSD Senior High (1300 students) only has 1 Principal and 1 Dean of Students; this school population warrants more staff at this level and a School Resource Officer.
- \$50k + benefits for the Officer-> this should be funded through the District; however, there are territorial issues.

- PG suggests that the elimination of ‘School Based Curriculum Development’/ Out of State Travel at \$20k for FY2010 would supply some of the funding for the Officer.
- Sturbridge accounts for approx. 41% of the student population.
- TRSD Senior High has a serious communication problem between the school and the outside. The school building does not allow transmissions (as discussed at prior FinCom meetings).
- \$50k - \$100k to fix the communication deficiency.
- PG suggests there is fat in the budget; there seems to be no inventory control.

Motion to approve ATM Article #12: Zoning Bylaws- Religious, Educational and Governmental Uses in All Zoning Districts, as written, made by VS, seconded by PG, so moved 6-1-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #13: Remove MGL Citation in Chapter 25- Site Plan Review, as written, made by VS, seconded by PG, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #18: Sewer Bylaws- Allocation of Sewer Flow, as written, made by KS, seconded by MS, so moved 3-4-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #18: Sewer Bylaws- Allocation of Sewer Flow, as amended to remove Section 5.6 (A) redundant last line “equals total flow that may be allocated during the upcoming calendar year.” or otherwise approve as written, made by MS, seconded by VS, so moved 6-1-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #21: Revaluation, as written, made by VS, seconded by MS, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #23: Sturbridge Nursery School Improvements, as written, made by BW, seconded by MS, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Articles #24, 25,26: Acceptance of MGL CH 61, 61A and 61B regarding tax classification of open space, as written, made by VS, seconded by PG, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #27: Board of Health Revolving Fund, as amended to change the maximum expenditure to \$10,000 or otherwise approve as written, made by MS, seconded by PG, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #28: Ambulance Fund, as written, made by MS, seconded by BW, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #32: Betterment Committee, as written, made by LM, seconded by VS, so moved 7-0-0.

Motion to approve ATM Article #33: Capital Improvement Plan, as written, made by MS, seconded by LM, so moved 6-0-1.

The \$20k for ADA - may have duplication in the Safety Complex budget; however, there are many issues to address.

Reminder that 3/5 meeting is at 6:30pm at Burgess.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Affenito