

Finance Board Meeting Minutes: September 30th, 2013

Attendees: *George McCormack, Ben Caggiano, Steven Dapkiewicz, Bill Previdi, Dava Feltch, Julie Desimone, Rachel Meredith- Warren, George Georgountzos*

Chairman Georgountzos called the meeting to order at 7:42

The previous meeting minutes were accepted with Ms. Feltch abstaining due to absenteeism.

Gus Niewenhous the head of the planning board took direction from Chairman Georgountzos to update the board on current projects.

North School: 6 units and still a ways away from full completion

Winship estates: approved for 27 units

Coventry Estates: - market listing very soon (10 lots)

Franklin St (senior living) – significant progress has been made

Fallon Rd apartments: MEPA is reviewing (300 units)

Langwood Commons “aka” hospital area: Friends of the Fells and MEPA are still involved

Ms. Meredith- Warren asked if there was a way to achieve the 10% 40B requirement without a hostile 40B. Mr. Niewenhous explained that there may be an empirical way to achieve the requirement. She furthered by asking if 250K that has been allocated to legal fees to fight against the “Weiss Farm” project is enough and if there is hope?

Mr Niewenhous commented that the town has hired an experienced lawyer but that odds were not on the town’s side.

Mr. Bobby Vernon from the audience requested to speak. He directed his questioning at Mr. Niewenhous and asked “What about safety? There is a rumor about 40B on the Governor’s desk, is this true?”

Mr. Niewenhous responded by saying that many towns have failed rejecting 40B developments and that calm heads are what’s needed not inflammatory language. Camille (*last name inaudible*) said that other towns are successfully fighting 40B. Mr. Niewenhous said that being emotional is not helpful.

Bob Grover the department head of the DPW was called to give a background of the trash and trash collections in past years and insight on Selectman Tom Boussy’s presentation.

When Bob Grover completed a citizen spoke about the waste removal proposition that Tom Boussy was preparing to present. He mentioned the auto pickup technology that picks up barrels with a control operated arms and how it would be a safety hazard. There are tree lined streets that will make pick up difficult as well as cars that may block machinery.

Chairman Georgountzos explained to the citizen that the Finance Board had no authority today to make any decisions.

Selectmen Boussy's presentation commenced. **This can be viewed in its entirety on the Stoneham TV website (<http://stonehamtv.org/ondemand>)**

Mr. Previdi asked whether it would be favorable and easiest to have a pay as you throw, its the most equitable.

Selectman Boussy countered that towns like Malden this is highly undesirable as citizens steal bags and there is more illegal dumping.

Next Town Accountant Ron Florino took a seat at the table. He provided a background of what his office does. The Accountants office has 1 FT and 1 PT associate. He noted that the town had been shortchanged with Chap 70 aid.

Mr. Caggiano questions if there was payroll and time card checks in place and Mr. Florino said there were.

Mr. Florino indicated that there is 1.9 MM in stabilization fund and that number should be higher, about 5 MM. There is 160 K new growth in the upcoming fiscal year expected. Chairman Georgountzos asked if Mr. Florino thought the budget agreement was working and Mr. Florino responded it had its pros and cons, the primary con being the lack of flexibility which is something a town needs.

Chairman Georgountzos recommended the board vote on Article 10 which has to do with the Town Administrators budget. The budget increased. Mr. Previdi wanted clarity on the amount and why the amount seemed high. No vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50

Respectfully Submitted,

George McCormack