

**ADVISORY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2015**

A meeting of the Advisory & Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Moody at 7:00PM and was conducted in the Mayflower II Meeting Room at the Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

PRESENT **Thirteen members of the committee were present:**

Kevin Canty, Richard Gladdys, Michael Hanlon, Harry Helm, Kevin Hennessey, Shelagh Joyce, Ethan Kusmin, Kevin Lynch, Christopher Merrill, John Moody, Harry Salerno, Marc Sirrico, Charles Stevens

ABSENT **Two members of the committee were absent:**

Cornelius Bakker, Michael Hourahan

AGENDA ITEMS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE PRESENTATION

➤ **ATM Article 16D: CPC – Acquire 50 Acre Parcel – Black Cat Road**

Bill Keohan, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), presented ATM Article 16D. He said CPC is recommending the purchase of 50 acres of land off Black Cat Road for open space and recreational purposes. This is made up of portions of Lots 25A-1 and 39-2 on Plan #46 of 2014, Lot 25B on Assessors Map 90, and Lot 69 on Assessors Map 98. The intention is to preserve the headwaters to Billington Sea, Town Brook and Plymouth Harbor. The property will be held under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission. The property appraised at \$525,000 and the CPC is purchasing it for \$425,000.

Questions:

- Does the property include all the outlined parcels on the map? (M Hanlon) Yes, portions of all.
- What is the logic for closing the cranberry bog? (R Gladdys) That industry is changing. Cranberry operations are manmade now. USDA is helping farmers get out of these bog locations now.

Harry Salerno made a motion to recommend ATM Article 16D. Michael Hanlon, second. The motion carries unanimously (11-0-0).

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS

➤ **STM Article 10: Increase Tax Exemption for Veteran's Organizations**

Anne Dunn, Director of Assessing, presented STM Article 10. Currently an incorporated organization of veterans is exempt from local property taxes up to a dollar amount of the fair cash valuation based on local option. This article, if adopted, would increase the exemption amount up to \$1,500,000. Last year, after meeting with the Revenue Task Force, the Assessing Department has been carefully reviewing the exemptions for charitable organizations. As part of the review process, we became aware of a change in the law for incorporated veterans organizations. Through the acts of 2008 MGL Chapter 59, Sec 5, Clause 5C was added. There are two such organizations in the Town of Plymouth. They are the American Legion Post #40 and the Plymouth Memorial Post # 1822 (VFW). Current assessments are \$914,700 and \$495,000 respectively.

Questions:

- What are the exemption ceilings now? (H Salerno) \$200,000, 5A \$400,000, 5B \$700,000.
- Are those two organizations currently being assessed taxes? (J Moody) No.

Richard Gladdys made a motion to recommend STM Article 10. Kevin Canty, second. The motion carries unanimously (10-0-1). Kevin Hennessey, abstained.

➤ **STM Article 1: Classification and Compensation Plans/Personnel Bylaws**

Cindy DePina, Human Resources Director, presented Article 1. With the recent changes to minimum wage and multi-year increases in the lower paid positions, it has caused compression on some Miscellaneous D positions so we need to make changes in some hourly rates. At Fall Town Meeting only those positions that fell below the new minimum wage received hourly rate increases. The rates are too compressed so that some supervisors are making about the same hourly wage as those they supervise. These are all summer seasonal positions with the Recreation Department. To fix this adjustments have to be made to the Lifeguard Coordinator, Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, Beach & Park Supervisors, Water Safety Program Coordinator, and Water Safety Instructor.

Questions/Comments:

- Some wage increases are as much as 10% year to year. Is there concern about the full time town employees viewing that 10% and thinking “what about me”? (J Moody) All of these positions have had a 50 cent increase each year. This helps with retention. There have not been any Miscellaneous D increases since 2012. These are seasonal employees with no benefits.
- This is concerning and may play out at negotiations. (J Moody)
- Are these rates in line with other towns? (K Canty) I looked at MMA surveys and we are mid level on some rates and below mid on other rates. We compete with other South Shore towns and even Cape towns for summer staff. We have been at these levels and will continue to be at these levels with the increases.
- Why adjust for three years at a time instead of just one at a time? (M Hanlon) The new minimum wage law is in three year steps so we are mirroring that plus it is a lot of work to make the changes so we do not want to have to do it each year.
- If these increases are not approved, would be have a staff shortage? (K Hennessey) Yes, we would struggle to find staff.
- Are these increases included in the budget already? (K Hennessey) We have \$100,000 in Salary Reserve to account for the minimum wage increases.
- I am unclear if we should be looking at minimum wage or living wage? (K Hennessey) Supervisors must make more than those they supervise. Living wage does not apply here, these are summer jobs for high school and college students. I am not troubled by this. (H Salerno)
- In order to get and retain good lifeguards we must have a competitive rate of pay. If we are able to retain them we save money but not having to start over to train them. We don’t want launch those we train and have for one summer to other communities, we want to keep them. This is a good idea to maintain a competitive edge. (K Canty)
- It is important to pay lifeguards well to keep strong staff and keep our children safe. The 10% increase is worth it and is a small amount of money overall. (R Gladdys)

Christopher Merrill made a motion to recommend STM Article 1. Kevin Canty, second. The motion carries unanimously (11-0-0).

Shelagh Joyce arrived to meeting.

➤ **STM Article 3: Unpaid Bills**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 3. Once a fiscal year is closed out we may not pay bills for that fiscal year without a 9/10 vote by Town Meeting. We are looking for Town Meeting approval to pay four bills from FY14 totaling \$9,938.81:

- Schools: 1 bill from Southeastern Regional School District \$7,592.00
- Water Dept: 2 bills from Integrys (\$1,520.31 & \$681.50) \$2,201.81
- CPC: 1 bill from Kopelman and Paige, PC \$ 145.00

The School bill is for transportation for a homeless student. The Water Department bills are from an electric supplier. The Department receives two monthly bills for each electricity account they have, one from NSTAR and one from the supplier. These two bills were not received from the Water Department because of an incorrect billing address. The bill for the CPC for legal work for recording deeds was dated June 30th but was not received until the fiscal year was closed out.

Questions/Comments:

- I'm confused about the transportation bill for the homeless student. We were not anticipating this bill? We did not know this student was out there? Who decides what type of transportation? Doesn't this have to be negotiated and contracted? We just receive a bill out of the blue? Something seems went awry. (H Salerno) Not sure of the exact circumstances but we can find out details from the School Department and report back.
- These require 9/10 vote, historically are these approved? Do any fail to achieve 9/10 vote? Four bills, is this a lot? (K Canty) In the past ten years, all have been approved, not sure of history before that. Each Town Meeting we have 2 or 3 or 4 unpaid bills. It is a small number.
- The memo for the transportation bill states, "The McKinney Vento Act mandates the Plymouth School District provide transportation to Plymouth students who become homeless and are forced to move out of the district into temporary housing." So this is a partially funded mandate and we get a small reimbursement of that cost. (K Canty)
- Why would Plymouth have to pay for a student who lives out of town to attend Southeast Vocational School? (M Sirrico) The student started the school year living in Plymouth so the town is responsible for that student for the school year.
- This bill is for January through June. Where was student the first half of the year? Where did student relocate to? How is this transportation cost computed? Is it an allocation or a direct bill? (H Salerno) We will find out answers to your questions.

Ethan Kusmin made a motion to divide STM Article 3 and recommend approval of the Water Department and Community Preservation portion in the amount of \$2,346.81. Christopher Merrill, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

Christopher Merrill made a motion to postpone the School portion of STM Article 3 until the March 18, 2015 meeting. Ethan Kusmin, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

➤ **STM Article 2: Supplementing Departmental Budgets**

Lynne Barrett and Fire Chief, Ed Bradley, presented STM Article 2. These are the five FY15 budget line items that need additional funding to get through the year, with the amounts needed:

- Fire Dept – Vehicle Maintenance Expense: \$ 27,000
- Fire Dept – Salary & Wages Overtime: \$110,000
- All Town Insurance: \$ 50,000
- Member Benefits: \$ 48,000
- Snow & Ice: \$700,000
- Total: \$935,000

Fire Dept – Vehicle Maintenance: Chief Bradley explained that the unprecedented snow fall and extreme cold temperatures have caused numerous vehicle and equipment breakdowns and failures. The weather conditions have increased the department's activity by 78% over the same period in past years further taxing apparatus and equipment. A few of the apparatus breakdowns required expensive towing bills and dealer repairs. Most of the repairs were completed in-house but required expensive replacement parts, none of which were anticipated prior to the extreme weather. It costs

\$497 for one set of snow chains plus \$9.71 per cross link and each tire has 14 cross links so 28 per truck. They are going through a considerable amount of these this winter. The remaining balance in this line item is \$4,130 and they use an average of \$6,500 per month in normal weather.

Fire Dept – Salary & Wages Overtime: The Chief also explained that due to the additional staffing required to manage the multiple snow storms and extreme cold weather on top of a high absence rate due to multiple I.O.D (injuries on duty), FMLA absences and pending disability retirements, the overtime account has been prematurely depleted. Looking at past years spending trends helped estimate how much additional funds are needed to get through the year.

All Town Insurance: Lynne Barrett explained that this is the fourth year of level funding this budget. We increased it at the Fall Town Meeting by \$35,000 but due to the increase in the building values (new buildings added and adjustments for replacement cost), endorsements since July 2014 and a few deductibles for claims settled, there is a need for additional funding.

Member Benefits: The enrolment for the Managed Blue supplemental product continues to be a popular choice for senior retirees. The enrollment has increased since initially estimated so additional funds are needed.

Snow & Ice: The Assistant DPW Director recently came before Advisory & Finance to discuss the unprecedented snow fall this winter and expenditures incurred to date. We are estimated to exceed three times the annual average of snow and ice expenditures incurred to date. We are estimated to exceed three times the annual average of snow and ice expenditures; therefore the snow and ice deficit is expected to exceed three times the average annual amount. Snow and ice deficits can be raised on the Tax Rate Recap in the following fiscal year. Advisory & Finance authorized \$2.6 million snow and ice deficit spending. We would like to reduce the effect of this snow and ice deficit by transferring available Free Cash at the Special Town Meeting. The amount we have available is \$700,000.

The following are the recommended funding sources:

- Police Dept – Salary & Wages: \$167,000
- Redevelopment: \$ 20,000
- Out of District Transportation: \$ 48,000
- Free Cash: \$700,000
- Total: \$935,000

Police Dept – Salary & Wages: The Police Department has had several vacancies remain open. They also had several employees leave force to go to work for other towns or the state police, and had two unexpected retirements. It takes time to fill civil service vacancies.

Redevelopment: This budget included \$5,000 for maintenance of the 1820 Court House and \$15,000 for insurance of the 1820 Court House. These expenses shifted out of Redevelopment to the town.

Out of District Transportation: As mentioned at last week’s meeting, Gary Costin, Business Manager for the Schools, was able to collaborate with other towns on the Out of District Transportation to the two agricultural schools, leaving surplus funds in that budget line.

Free Cash: Free Cash is a revenue source that results from the calculation, as of July 1, of a community’s remaining unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year, based on the balance sheet as of June 30. It typically includes actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental budget line-items for the year just ending, plus unexpended free cash from the previous year.

Questions/Comments:

- Can you review the snow and ice numbers with the \$700,000 free cash? (K Hennessey) We authorized deficit spending of \$2,600,000. The \$700,000 from free cash would reduce that to \$1,900,000 to be raised in the Tax Rate Recap next year.
- Regarding All Town Insurance, how many vacant buildings does the town have? (C Merrill) I believe just the old Water Barn and the 1820 Court House.
- Regarding Member Benefits, seniors have two options: Managed Blue and MedEx. With the shift to Managed Blue are we now over-allocated in MedEx? (J Moody) Not necessarily. The numbers are small. We will look at that during open enrollment.
- Has Overtime been used to shovel out hydrants? (S Joyce) No, those are shoveled out by crews in each area while on duty.
- Isn't the public supposed to be shoveling out hydrants? (J Moody) They are supposed to but the Fire Department has had to shovel out over 5,000 hydrants. On their regular shifts they track which hydrants have been shoveled out and which ones have not.
- I was surprised to see the Fire Department shoveling hydrants in the Pinehills on private roads. Doesn't the contractor for that community shovel the hydrants? (S Joyce) Firefighters have shoveled over 150 hydrants in the Pinehills alone, the contractor can not keep up with it.
- Has the Sheriff's Department been contacted to see if maybe the prisoner work crews can shovel out hydrants? (C Merrill) Yes they were contacted and they are not able to do that work either for liability reasons or staffing reasons.
- \$640,000 was budgeted for overtime, what percentage is that of the total Fire Department budget? (J Moody) It is about 7% of the total budget. Most towns around the state are at 15-16%, so we are on the low side.
- With an additional allocation of \$60,000 approved at Fall Town Meeting plus \$110,000 now, that is approximately \$800,000 in overtime for FY15. The Department is 20% over its original Overtime budget. I am struggling with the reasons you have to use so much overtime. (J Moody) We always have the standard reasons like crew is out at a fire or accident when a shift ends but can not leave until job is done. We also call firefighters in for building fires. We also have unusual circumstances this year like pending disability retirements, where they suffer career ending injuries and we can not replace them until their disability is approved and they officially leave which takes time. On average about 12 staff members leave each year. We are not like the private sector where we can bump up staff in anticipation of that. We have to wait until they actually leave to then fill their position. In addition to those out on disability leave, we have some on military leave, or vacations, or jury duty, or call out sick.
- How many firefighters do you have in all? (J Moody) We have 123 staff which includes 81 firefighters.
- \$800,000 is a lot of money. How many staff members does that \$800,000 in Overtime flow to? (J Moody) During storms about 80% of the staff does overtime. Typically 70% of the staff always agrees to take overtime and another 10% maybe takes overtime half of the times it is offered. Paying overtime is much more efficient than adding staff. We staff around the clock so if you add one person you need to add one per shift so four total. Adding staff involves salaries, benefits, uniform expenses, and unfunded liabilities.
- Can any of the Fire Department Overtime be calculated into the storm state of emergencies so we can receive reimbursement? (C Stevens) The Governor requests state of emergency funding from the federal government. Reimbursements are typically based on direct snow removal costs, public building access and emergency shelters for a specific 48 hour period. There was one state

of emergency declared for storm Juno, which was the big January storm. There is a second request pending because of the large amount of snow received over the 3 or 4 week period so we will have to wait and see if that gets approved.

Christopher Merrill made a motion to recommend STM Article 2. Richard Gladdys, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

➤ **STM Article 4: Funding Projects - Library Carpet Project**

Dinah O'Brien, Director of Community Resources, presented STM Article 4. At the Annual Town Meeting in April 2013 an appropriation of \$140,000 was made to finance the replacement of all carpeting at the Plymouth Public Library Main Branch. This was based upon estimates received from two vendors as to what the cost might be. The project has moved forward and was bid out in the winter of 2015. When the bids were returned it was discovered that cost has escalated and the original appropriation of \$140,000 is insufficient by \$45,821 to complete the project. The carpet squares themselves are being purchased for \$90,000 from the State Bid List which leaves \$50,000 for installation. The lowest bidder, Capital Carpet and Flooring specialists, has bid \$95,821 which has resulted in a deficit of \$45,821 needed to complete the project. The library has been cited by MIAA for its carpet creating a dangerous situation, particularly in the Children's Room and Reference Area. The project needs to move forward in the late spring of this year in coordination with the redesign and installation of the new Circulation Desk and AV area.

Questions/Comments:

- How often has the carpet been replaced? (Chris Merrill) It has never been replaced in the 23 years since the building opened.
- Have you looked into tile or wood as alternatives? (Chris Merrill) Yes. We have to consider acoustics so tile would not work for the whole library as it does in the lobby. Wood is much more expensive than carpet.
- Will the installation be done off hours? (S Joyce) We are planning to close for one week for the construction of the circulation desk and AV area and we will plan to have carpet replaced that same week. Work will be done 9AM-5PM.
- What will the staff do during that week? (S Joyce) They will be working behind the scenes, there is plenty of work to be done.
- Did you purchase extra carpet squares for repairs down the road? (K Hennessey) Yes.

Richard Gladdys made a motion to recommend STM Article 4. Kevin Canty, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

➤ **STM Article 5: Establish a Sewer Special Purpose Debt Payment Fund**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 5. Town Meeting has previously authorized the design and construction of the first phase of the sewer expansion project on Samoset Street. This project will be funded through betterments with the property owners. They will be paying for the cost of borrowing for the project plus 2% in addition to the project costs applicable to their equivalent unit. We would like to establish a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Sewer Betterment Debt Projects to have a fund to reserve specific amounts received that are associated with the financing of these particular projects. These specific amounts include premiums received on borrowing because these amounts should be used in the calculations of the cost of borrowing and used for payment of debt service. In addition, they include betterment payments that are paid in full or in advance, in lieu of amortizing over a period up to 20 years. These amounts need to be reserved to help pay the debt service amortization of

the projects. If these funds are not placed into the Special Purpose Debt Payment Fund they have to be closed out to Sewer Retained earnings at the end of the year. We started borrowing temporarily for this project with a bond anticipation note (BAN) dated May 2014 for \$530,000. We received a premium on this BAN of \$4,648.10 which closed out to Sewer Retained earnings at June 20, 2014. At this time I am recommending that we establish this Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Sewer Betterment Debt Projects and transfer the amount of \$4,648.10 from Sewer Retained Earnings as the initial deposit.

- Will the premium on the bond anticipation note offset so the bond is paid out of this as well? (H Salerno) Debt service can not be paid from where the premium goes.
- Will this fund be used in the fall of FY16? (H Salerno) We can have the fund available and at Fall Town Meeting vote to pay the interest costs.
- Will this Stabilization Fund be within the Sewer Enterprise? (M Hanlon) Yes.
- You will need Town Meeting appropriation to use the funds? (K Hennessey) Yes.

Harry Salerno made a motion to recommend STM Article 5. Kevin Canty, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

➤ **STM Article 6: Wind Turbine PILOT – Assessors Map 129**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 6. In 2013 Town Meeting authorized the Board of Selectmen to negotiate one or more agreements for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H(b), and Chapter 164, Section 1 for property relating to renewable energy generation facilities. Since then there have been two PILOT agreements for solar photovoltaic facilities. Because of the state statute, communities are allowed to tax these facilities through a negotiated PILOT agreement. Today an agreement was reached with Future Wind LLC to enter into a PILOT agreement for their 8.0 MWAC Wind Turbine Generating Facility which includes four wind turbines. By using the income approach to value the facility; a rate of \$14,000 per MWAC was the negotiated amount for the PILOT. The term of the agreement will be for twenty years and will include an escalator of 2.5%. This agreement will be just for the personal property; the land will be taxed separately. Language and other terms of the PILOT agreement are being finalized with Counsel. This facility is to be built on three privately owned parcels off of Head of the Bay Road in South Plymouth. They have been working with the town since 2010 to get this permitted through Planning and ABA and are now at a point where they need this PILOT agreement to assist them in obtaining financing. PILOT agreements are beneficial to the developer because there is a set stream of payments known at the beginning of the project for cost evaluation and financing. PILOTs are also beneficial to the town for the following reasons: 1) There is a set stream of payments for tax billing purposes based on an initial evaluation of cost for appraisal versus on an annual basis which lowers our transaction cost by avoiding a 3 year certification/valuation appraisal. 2) Because the facility is considered personal property the town could not perfect a lien like we can with real estate if it went unpaid. We would seek remedy under a violation of the contract terms. 3) Removes the risk of disagreement of the value and potential for requests for abatement. 4) Negotiated PILOTs with solar developers prompt development of renewable energy in Plymouth. A vote of Town Meeting is required to adopt the PILOT agreement.

Questions/Comments:

- Will there be a provision to extend beyond the 20th year? (M Hanlon) No, we wanted the ability to reevaluate after 20 years. We will renegotiate or will value the property at that time.
- What if they do not generate the contracted amount of power? (C Merrill) There will be language in the contract to adjust accordingly based on income approach.

- They can ramp down production if they are not able to sell all the power so the payment schedule is based on if the facility was running at full capacity? (J Moody) It uses a “voluminous” Department of Revenue formula but it is based on what they are selling. This developer has 99% of its contracts in place and those contracts are for 20 years. Yes payments could possibly be less if sales and production decrease.
- Have they received all of their permits? (R Gladdys) We know they have been working on permitting since 2010, not sure if each one has been officially signed, we can find out.
- This company has had anticipated timelines published online and they predicted going live in 2012. (J Moody) Permit process may be what is holding them back (R Gladdys)
- Is the wind turbine in Camelot Park a PILOT agreement or taxed? (K Hennessey) Annual tax.
- What is the tax and capability of that turbine? (K Hennessey) Not sure exactly but tax payments start low at the beginning and increase over time. The payments over 20 years add up to the same amount whether it is a PILOT or taxed.

Kevin Canty made a motion to recommend STM Article 6. Harry Salerno, second.

Comments:

- I am in support of this, let’s give this company this tool to get development going. (R Gladdys)
- Whether there is a PILOT or not, it is all about valuation and tax is based on value which is determined by the market place and need for the product. If it can’t generate revenue, it is less valuable. (H Salerno)
- Common maintenance causing shut downs could impact value. (C Merrill)
- This is similar to the solar facilities and calculations are based on historical averages. Receiving even payments over twenty years is better than the ups and downs. (E Kusmin)
- With a flat dollar per megawatt you give up the chance for increases if the market value increases. (K Hennessey)
- You give up the potential upside to have fixed stream payments. (H Salerno)

The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

John Moody relinquished the Chairmanship to Harry Salerno before STM Article 7 was heard.

➤ **STM Article 7: Plymouth Retirement Board – Treasurer’s Stipend**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 7. This Article was unsuccessful at Fall Town Meeting but the Retirement Board feels very strongly that they should be given the authority to compensate the Treasurer of the retirement system (custodian of the funds) up to the allowable maximum by local option statute of \$3,000 annually. The Treasurer currently receives a \$1,500 stipend. A survey of other Massachusetts Retirement System Treasurers, and size of our system, warrants the option for us to compensate up to the maximum as many other systems our size and smaller pay the maximum. The Retirement Board appreciates Advisory & Finance’s continued support and assistance in getting this local option adopted by Town Meeting.

Questions/Comments:

- We did not support this Article in the Fall, what has changed since then? (K Canty) The Retirement Board feels very strongly that this is an important position and would like the option to pay up to the amount allowable in the local option statute. Nothing else has changed.

- The Treasurer knew this was part of the job, this is a union position and salary is commensurate with duties. (K Canty)
- Where will the additional \$1,500 be funded from? (R Gladdys) From retirement system funds.
- So it is not costing the taxpayer since the retirement system account pays. (R Gladdys)
- It would affect their pension right? (S Joyce) Yes, it would have a miniscule impact.
- The retirement system is audited correct? Is there any fraud suspected? (C Merrill) It is audited annually by an auditor and bi-annually by PERAC. We do not suspect any fraud. Just trying to reiterate the importance of this position and of checks and balances required in the system.
- Does the town's Internal Auditor also audit the retirement system? (C Merrill) No, an auditor is contracted by the retirement system.
- If the Treasurer receives the additional \$1,500, what would the impact on the pension be? (R Gladdys) If the Treasurer worked long enough to max out, she would receive 80% of the \$1,500 on an annual basis in retirement.

John Moody made a motion to recommend STM Article 7. Ethan Kusmin, second.

Discussion/Comments:

- I am going to vote for this and urge the committee to vote for this. I assume when the town sets the Treasurer's salary they do not include the retirement fund duties because taxpayers do not pay for those duties, the retirement system pays. The Retirement Board knows best about their funds and if they want this ability then we should grant them the authority to do so. (J Moody)
- I am in support as well. Give the people in the position to make the decision the ability to do so. These duties require extra time and they should be compensated at a just rate. (M Sirrico)
- I also support this. It is an extra \$28 per week. If the Treasurer does a good job and keeps clean records, then the retirement system will save money on their auditing expense. (E Kusmin)
- I did not support this in the fall and do not support it now. This is a philosophical difference. This is public money we are expending and I do not like the way the town compensates people with 14 categories of compensation. I am drawing a line in the sand over \$1,500. (M Hanlon)
- I am also not in support of this Article, and did not support it in the fall. It is part of the job and requires a minimal amount of time. Checks and balances should be there regardless of pay. (S Joyce)
- I voted in favor of this last time but am not in favor this time. There are no new impacts to warrant reconsideration and it is inefficient to revisit unless there are new facts. (K Canty)
- I am not in support, it is part of the job and should be done to the same level regardless of pay, it is a side deal. (K Hennessey)
- The Retirement Board want to use their funds and it is not costing the taxpayer, so I do not understand why we shouldn't trust the Retirement Board. (R Gladdys)

Charles Stevens asked to move the question. Michael Hanlon, second. The motion carries (8-4-0). Richard Gladdys, John Moody, Christopher Merrill and Harry Helm, opposed.

The motion to recommend STM Article 7 carries (7-6-0). Richard Gladdys, Ethan Kusmin, John Moody, Harry Helm, Charles Stevens, Marc Sirrico, in favor. Michael Hanlon, Kevin Canty, Kevin Hennessey, Shelagh Joyce, Christopher Merrill, and Kevin Lynch, opposed. Chair Harry Salerno voted in the affirmative to break the tie.

Harry Salerno relinquished the Chairmanship back to John Moody.

➤ **STM Article 8: Acquire Easement – Pilgrim Memorial State Park**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 8. The Town is seeking to acquire an easement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation and Recreation for a small section of Pilgrim Memorial State Park. The park is state land with Article 97 protection and this agreement allows for the bridge, headwall, guardrail and stormwater system work to be completed, maintained and property documented through an easement with the Commonwealth. This easement is required.

Questions/Comments:

- Is there any cost involved? (S Joyce) Only recording fees, maybe a couple hundred dollars.
- If we are legally required to do this, why didn't we do it prior to doing work? How long of a process is it? (J Moody) It is a lengthy process. We may have started the process prior to doing work, not sure.

Michael Hanlon made a motion to recommend STM Article 8. Ethan Kusmin, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

➤ **STM Article 9: Entergy PILOT – One Year Rollover**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, presented STM Article 9. Our current three year PILOT agreement with Entergy Nuclear Generation Company extends through Fiscal Year 2016. We came to an agreement with Entergy, a First Amendment to the PILOT Agreement, to extend the term of the PILOT Agreement by one year to bring it through Fiscal Year 2017. The respective annual payment for FY2017 shall be \$9,250,000. Obligations of this First Amendment are conditioned upon: 1) The Town submitting the First Amendment to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) and DOR having no objection; and 2) Approval of the First Amendment by the Town acting by a vote of its Town Meeting. The Town will be working with a consultant to negotiate a longer term PILOT, most likely a 5 year agreement, which will begin in FY2018.

Questions/Comments:

- Does the law firm still charge us the \$400,000 we budgeted? (R Gladdys) We pay them when we use the, they are not on retainer.
- Now that the plant is storing nuclear waste and has new buildings, is that taken into consideration? (R Gladdys) Not for this extension. A PILOT is for tax purposes only. In negotiations for 2018 and beyond, we will look at any value increases.

Harry Salerno made a motion to recommend STM Article 9. Charles Stevens, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD/NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- Caucus Schedule: We are waiting to receive the Caucus Meeting schedule from Chris Pratt, Chair of the Precinct Chairs Committee. Meetings will most likely be scheduled March 20 - April 10. Harry Salerno will again be scheduling representatives from the Advisory & Finance Committee for each Caucus Meeting. More information will be available at the next Advisory & Finance Committee meeting.
- Rules Committee: The Advisory & Finance Rules Committee will be meeting next week and hopes to share rules revisions at the next Advisory & Finance Committee meeting.
- Next Meeting: The next Advisory & Finance Committee Meeting is Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

MINUTES

- January 13, 2015 (revised)
Harry Salerno moved to approve the January 13, 2015 meeting minutes. Christopher Merrill, second. The motion carries unanimously (10-0-2). Kevin Canty and Harry Helm, abstained.
- January 21, 2015 (revised)
Harry Salerno moved to approve the January 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Ethan Kusmin, second. The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).
- January 28, 2015
The committee voted unanimously (12-0-0) to have the January 28, 2015 notice of no meeting due to snow storm added the record.
- February 4, 2015
Christopher Merrill moved to approve the February 4, 2015 meeting minutes. Ethan Kusmin, second. Kere Gillette pointed out that attendance showed Kevin Canty as absent which is incorrect and will be changed. The motion carries unanimously (10-0-2). Richard Gladdys and Harry Salerno, abstained.
- February 11, 2015
Kevin Canty moved to approve the February 11, 2015 meeting minutes. Harry Salerno, second. The motion carries unanimously (9-0-3). Richard Gladdys, Kevin Hennessey, and Harry Helm, abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

**Kevin Hennessey moved for adjournment. Ethan Kusmin, second.
The motion for adjournment carries unanimously (12-0-0).
The meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kere Gillette