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Freetown Finance Committee

Meeting 10-18-2016 @ 6:00 PM

Members present: George, Kent, Joel, Paul

George called the meeting to order at 6:05

George opened discussion on Article 8: to see if Town will vote to raise and/or transfer from free cash the sum of \$750,000 to funds costs for first step of a new police station. This article is being re-opened as the dollar amount increased \$200,000, therefore, the committee has to re-vote. The article has already gained approval from the building department and the BOS.

Kent made a motion to approve, Paul seconded – unanimous.

The next article for discussion was Article 18: to see if the Town will vote to amend Town Bylaw to reduce the number of FinCom members from seven to five. George said that he has a volunteer that would join the FinCom who is a retired math professor from UMD. If the number is dropped, he will not be brought on. Need to get more people involved/interested in FinCom and if number dropped may lose other interested parties. Kent made a suggestion that we keep it at seven until the 2017 elections and make the decision on the outcome of that election.

Joel made a motion to pull the article, Paul seconded – unanimous.

George asked if everyone was on the same page that if there were no dollars included in an article if the FinCom would comment "No Recommendation". Everyone was in agreement. Quickly went through list of articles.

Joel asked about the properties the town was acquiring due to non-payment of taxes. George explained that all the parcels on the agenda are wetlands.

George said he would be gone the month of February. Kent said if a meeting needed to be called, he would call one. Department Heads are required to have their budgets in by February 1st. George suggested maybe FinCom should meet in January with Police, Fire, School, and Highway.

Meeting left open for Special Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted
Lois Amaral, Senior Clerk
Finance Committee
