



## Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2014 6:30PM, Meeting Room 1 and Community Room

Tyngsborough Town Hall

Tyngsborough, Massachusetts

Members Present: Darryl Wickens, Chair (DW)  
Scott Hammer, Vice Chair (SH)  
Burt Buchman, Secretary (BB)  
Paul Morin (PM)

Members Absent: Eric Sondhi (ES)

Finance Committee met in Meeting Room 1

**PM made a motion to come into session at 6:37 pm, SH seconded all in favor 4-0-0.**

**Item 1: Discuss/Appoint member participation on Government Study Committee and Ambulance Study Subcommittee.**

**PM made a motion to appoint Burt Buchman to the Government Study Commission, seconded by SH, Approved 4-0-0.**

**SH made a motion to appoint Darryl Wickens to the Ambulance Study Subcommittee, seconded by PM, Approved 4-0-0.**

BB requested a replacement for himself for the Sewer Commission.

**BB made a motion to appoint Paul Morin to represent the Finance Committee at the Sewer Commission meetings, seconded by SH, Approved 4-0-0.**

Eric Sondhi joined the meeting at 6:59pm

The Finance Committee moved to the Community Room to continue as a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen

Attendees (joint session): Nina Nazarian, Assistant Town Administrator  
Kerry Colburn-Dion, Finance Coordinator/ Treasurer  
Catherine Gabriel , Town Accountant  
Therese Gay, Administrative Assistant  
Robert Jackson, Board of Selectmen  
Rick Reault, Board of Selectmen  
Karyn Puleo, Board of Selectmen  
Corliss Lambert, Board of Selectmen  
William Gramer, Board of Selectmen

Presenters: Jeffrey Hannaford, Sewer Commission  
Brian Martin, Sewer Commission  
Frederick Perrault, Sewer Commission  
Rosemary Blacquier, Consultant  
Ken Carlson and Jack Troidl, Woodard & Curran Consultants  
Chief Richard Howe, Police Department  
Donald Ciampa, Superintendent of Schools  
Michael Moran, School Committee  
Herb Desrosiers, School Committee  
Paul Mitchell, School Committee  
Anthony Tinnirella, School Committee  
Jeffrey Dirk, Vanasse & Associates, Inc.

**Item 2: Special Town Meeting Warrant - Joint Meeting with Selectmen and Sewer Commission for a Presentation on Sewer Extension Project**

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to (1) appropriate a sum of money for construction and land acquisition costs of the Phase I West Sewer System infrastructure project (the "Project"), identified as Needs Area 1, Phase 1 West of the 2009 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan as shown on Figure 1 attached to this Article, and filed with the Office of the Town Clerk, including without limitation all costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust or otherwise; and (ii) authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain, by purchase, by gift, or otherwise acquire easements and other interests in land as necessary or convenient for public sewer purposes related to the Project in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, S 14, and M.G.L. c. 79, and M.G.L. c. 82, or by any and every other power and authority in any way enabling, including, but not limited to, land and/or easements situated on the following parcels of land:

135 Middlesex Road, Assessors Map 21, Lot 14,  
48 Kendall Road, Assessors Map 20A, Lot 18,  
36 Kendall Road, Assessors Map 20A, Lot 17,  
122 Middlesex Road, Assessors Map 21, Lot 18, and  
37 Old Tyng Road, Assessors Map 21, Lot 18a

or to take any action relative thereto.

*Submitted by: Sewer Commissioners*

DW excused himself from the Article 1 discussion on Phase I West Sewer Project at 7:10pm.  
SH became the Acting Finance Committee Chair.

Corliss Lambert excused himself from the Article 1 discussion on Phase 1 West Sewer Project at 7:22pm.

The Sewer Commission presented an overview of the Phase 1 West Sewer Project. The betterment fees and regulations were propagated in the summer per Mass General Laws. The construction cost estimate is \$8.5M. \$8.8354M has been approved by the state. There is a 6% Town Allotment as the town would own 6% of the overall capacity. The Sewer Commission has applied for a \$2.5M grant from Mass Works.

330 gallons per day would be the usage for 1 residential unit. If this article is approved at Town Meeting, the Town will borrow at 2% but the financing for the betterments will be at 5%. The betterments are locked down. If the property is sold, the betterment balance will need to be paid. The betterments are assessed when the project is completed in 2 years time. The debt service for the Town will increase. The Town would close on permanent financing of \$8.8M but that will be adjusted at the end. The first Town payment would be a year after making the loan permanent. The Town would make payments twice a year. The betterment fund can be an interest bearing account. That money could be used to offset the debt. The interim financing program at 1% gets folded into the permanent financing.

Corliss Lambert rejoined the Selectmen at 8:01pm to move the Alcohol Beverage license hearing. He excused himself at 8:02Pm.

The loan agreement would be after the first of the year. Any grant money would be deducted from that. The Treasurer stated there should be a course of action for early payments and defaults. Possibly Sewer Commission has some additional funds in retained earnings that can be used to offset this.

The Board of Selectmen made a motion that Article 1 be place on the Special Town Meeting warrant with a recommendation held till the second funding source is identified. Approved 4-0-0 by the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee will hold on their recommendation till town meeting floor.

**Item 3: Special Town Meeting Warrant - Joint meeting with Selectmen for presentation on Traffic Signals at the Public Schools if needed.**

Darryl Wickens and Corliss Lambert rejoined the meeting at 8:22Pm. DW re-assumed the Chair.

Discussion was held between the Board of Selectmen, Finance Department, School Committee, and Chief of Police regarding the school traffic intersection study at Westford Road, Tyngsboro Elementary School and at Norris Rd/Frost Road, Tyngsboro High School.

The study done was to re-evaluate the traffic patterns and determine what improvement, such as traffic signals, could be recommended.. The consultant will be conducting follow-up counts this week. The initial study was conducted after the seniors graduated and while Tyngsboro Elementary School activities were winding down last June.

The estimated cost of this project could be up to \$600K. Construction could begin next spring with signals operational in the June time frame.

The School Committee wants to hold off on putting this on a warrant for the Special Town Meeting. They want to discuss this amongst themselves first and to hold off on any vote at this time.

Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee did not take any votes on this project.

**Item 4: Special Town Meeting Warrant - Joint meeting with Selectmen on New Senior Center – Funding for fixtures and furniture**

No action was taken.

**Item 5: Special Town Meeting Warrant - Joint meeting with Selectmen on Citizen Petition, Resolution Opposing the Northeast Expansion of Tennessee Gas Pipeline**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts (or take any other action in relation (thereto):

**Resolution Opposing the Northeast Expansion of Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts**

WHEREAS Kinder Morgan/ Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. is preparing to construct a High-Pressure Transmission Pipeline carrying fracked natural gas through Tyngsborough and our neighboring communities, en route to Dracut, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS said pipeline would impact forest, wetlands, conservation land and farmland, and would pass beneath the Merrimack River, and require maintenance in perpetuity of a 50 foot right-of-way through the possible use of herbicides; and

WHEREAS a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leaks, ruptures or devastating explosions causing untold damage to property, lives, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS said pipeline goes against current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

WHEREAS the cost of said pipeline could require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff as well as environmental costs not required by law to be paid for by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. or Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P., making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline may adversely affect property values, adversely affect residents' livelihood and otherwise may negatively impact the integrity of the town's character; and

WHEREAS, federal eminent domain powers would be used to forcibly take pipeline easements from unwilling landowners; and

WHEREAS, our energy challenges are better addressed through investments in energy conservation measures as well as green and renewable energy solutions,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the people of Tyngsborough, Massachusetts

1. Hereby call on our Selectmen to stand in opposition to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.'s Northeast Expansion pipeline and not allow it within town borders;

2. Hereby instruct our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take any such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.

The Board of Selectmen made a motion to place this warrant on the Special Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen approved 5-0-0

The Finance Committee took no action at this time.

**Adjournment**

**SH made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM, seconded by PM. All in favor 5-0-0.**

Prepared by: Burt Buchman, Finance Committee Clerk