

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, September 28, 2022, Town Hall

Members present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb. Stephanie Adams. Donna Wallace, Marilyn Foley

Also present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Pat Wood, Town Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Peter spoke to the Committee about the October 17, 2022 Special Town Meeting which has 3 warrant articles on the agenda. 1. Mass DOT Shrewsbury Street / Doyle Road transportation improvement project, 2. Design, contract and equip new athletic fields on town owned property behind the new DPW facility on Industrial Drive, improvement of the Dawson Recreation area and other existing town fields 3. Plan and design an all-inclusive access playground behind the HMLD. Peter explained that one of the requests that resulted from the 2018 Town Master Plan were for more playing fields. Many children of all ages in the town are involved in the different sports programs. The financing plan is to use ARPA federal money, \$150,000.00 in free cash, and \$100,000.00 from the Recreation Dept. combined with borrowing up to \$5,000,000.00. Also, the town will apply for grants that are available for these types of projects in an effort to reduce the costs. This project should cost the taxpayer about \$34.25 per year.

John and Pat presented the plans for the proposed fields behind the new DPW facility, the improvement of the Dawson Recreation area and other existing town fields. They answered questions from the Committee.

John and Pat presented the Shrewsbury Street and Doyle Road improvement project, which includes a roundabout, upgrading and widening the road, adding bike lanes and additional sidewalks. The Mass DOT and the Federal Highway Administration will fund all the project costs, estimated to be \$11,000,000.00. to \$12,000,000.00 The DPW has spent about \$700,00.00 on engineering plans from Chapter 90 money, and they anticipate another \$250,000.00 will be necessary to finalize the plans. The Town Meeting needs to approve the acquisition of certain small parcels of land and/or permanent or temporary easements. They answered questions from the Committee.

The DPW will hold public hearings on these projects next week on 2 separate nights.

The Committee discussed the 3 warrant articles.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Chris to support the proposed athletic fields project was voted in favor 7-2 (opposed Al, Marilyn).

A motion to support the all-inclusive playground project for \$65,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Al 2nd by Marilyn to support the Shrewsbury Street project was voted in favor 8-1 (opposed Don).

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilynn Foley, Clerk