

Town of Hubbardston

Finance Committee – Meeting Minutes August 5, 2019

Meeting called to order: 6:30 PM in the Slade Building
Members present: Dave Conaghan, Shannon Erb, Joshua Lerner, Susan Rayne, and Chuck Reed

- 1) *Vote on recommendations for warrant articles for August 2019 Special Town Meeting.*
 - a) The Committee first discussed and agreed that its position in supporting a responsible Town budget was not and should not be construed as ‘anti-school’. The Committee next reviewed a proposed budget prepared in the event that the increased QRSD assessment of 6.31% were to pass, discussed a ‘compromise’ budget that contemplated an add-back of all hours, a \$30,000 Reserve Fund, 2.5% increases to Road Maintenance and General Highway line items, and the addition of \$4,000 for an HR consultant, for a deficit of approximately \$24,000 (to be eliminated by a corresponding reduction in the Town’s QRSD assessment) and discussed negotiation postures depending on the timing of the Special Town Meetings of Hardwick and New Braintree and whether their respective QRSD assessments were passed at those meetings. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Conaghan and seconded by Ms. Erb, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the ‘compromise’ budget and propose to the Selectboard that they attempt to negotiate the Town’s assessment with the QRSD depending on whether the Town’s meeting is first, second, or third, and consider offering the ‘compromise’ budget as part of those negotiations.

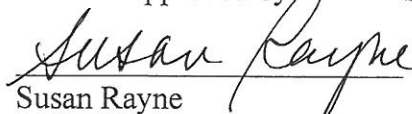
Mr. Lerner volunteered to prepare a handout for the Special Town Meeting explaining where the Town is in this process and the rationale for the Committee’s position on the Town’s QRSD assessment.
 - b) Upon motion duly made by Ms. Rayne and seconded by Ms. Erb, it was unanimously

VOTED: To recommend the approval of Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant as submitted.
- 2) *New Business.* Ms. Rayne reminded the Committee of the upcoming ATFC meeting scheduled for October 26.
- 3) *Adjournment.* Upon motion duly made by Ms. Erb and seconded by Mr. Conaghan, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

Adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Rayne, Clerk *Pro Tem*

Minutes approved by: Susan Rayne, Chair


Susan Rayne

Date: 10/15/19