

WARRANT & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2011

APPROVED

A. **ROLL CALL** - 6:36 PM - Acton Town Hall

Members present were:

Paul Poyant - Chairman
Andy Brazier - Vice Chairman
Karl Hodgdon
John Moore

Members absent were:

Debi Rix
Roger Roy

B. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting Agenda. Brazier/Moore - Unanimous.

C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting as corrected. Brazier/Moore - 3 in favor, Moore abstaining.

D. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

There were no public comments to come before the Committee.

E. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of a modified draft version of the Warrant and Finance Committee Ordinance for re-release to legal review** - Mr. Poyant explained that the legal review as obtained by the Board of Selectmen has resulted in no legal finding. Instead, it is requested that any document submitted be in its proposed final form, and be accompanied by specific legal questions to be answered. It was also clarified that the response would be an opinion only, with no guarantees.

Mr. Hodgdon stated that since the new Ordinance orders that the Committee "shall not author a Warrant Article", and that in his opinion there is in this instance no difference between a Warrant Article and an Ordinance, the Committee should not be writing this new Ordinance at all, and that instead the Selectmen should be writing it.

Mr. Poyant explained that in his opinion a Warrant Article and an Ordinance are two different things, and that therefore there is no conflict; but since some percentage of the town body would likely feel the same as Mr. Hodgdon, he asked for a Committee vote on the matter, in the interest of avoiding

the perception of hypocrisy.

After further discussion, a Motion was made and seconded for the Committee to cease all further work on the Ordinance, instead leaving it to Mr. Poyant in his capacity of Acton Citizen to move the Ordinance forward, given that most of it was his work in the first place. Moore/Hodgdon - 3 in favor, Mr. Brazier abstaining.

2. **W&FC Budget submission to the BoS** - After some discussion of increasing, decreasing, or leaving unchanged the proposed amount for this year (\$1200) and next year (\$1200), a Motion was made to table further discussion until the next meeting, when a more accurate assessment of last year's actual expenses should be available. Hodgdon/Moore - Unanimous.

3. **Sub-committee reports (incoming)** - Mr. Moore reported that there was an \$8,000 increase in tipping fees earned by the Transfer Station, so far this year, with much of that difference from two restaurants: Big Daddy's and the Crabby Bear. Mr. Moore also reported a discussion with Transfer Station manager Steve Ledoux, in which Mr. Moore suggested that the expense of disposing of some of the construction debris could potentially be offset by setting out the burnable wood for pickup by Acton citizens for use in their wood stoves. Burning this material would also save on home heating costs. It was generally agreed by the Committee that this idea should be pursued further.

F. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Committee.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

G. NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the Committee won't meet again until they have something to discuss.

I. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 7:46 PM. Brazier/Moore - Unanimous.

Prepared by Paul Poyant, W&FC Chair