

# **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**March 5, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Horacek, Chairman  
Linda Bathel, Vice-Chairman  
Terry Mish  
Art Pinell

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Rich Buley  
Sheila Chamberlin  
Dick Condron

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

The Finance Committee reconvened at 6:00 to discuss the pros and cons for the upcoming special town meeting.

Article 1 pro and con are listed below.

**A Motion was made to accept by A. Pinell and seconded by L. Bathel. The vote was 3-1-0 to recommend this article.**

Article 1. Pro - Approving will provide partial funding for the preservation of water and natural resources around North Pond and add to the already committed 1 million dollars previously approved at a prior town meeting for this purpose. Recreational opportunities such as hiking and hunting as well as animal habitat will also be enhanced if the North Pond Project is ultimately successful.

Article 1. Con - Approving this warrant article may disadvantage other worthy projects funded by the Community Preservation Fund. This unanticipated second round of funding from the Community Preservation Fund still does not fully fund the North Pond Project and will likely pressure other funding sources such as the General Fund and associated tax hikes to the residents of Southwick. The Project has changed substantially from what was originally presented to Southwick residents as well as the funding sources. Again, this will likely raise the tax rate in an already very difficult budget year as identified by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 2 pro and con are listed below.

**A Motion was made to accept by A. Pinell and seconded by L. Bathel. The vote was 0-4-0 to NOT recommend this article.**

Article 2. Pro- The purchase of the property will help keep the North Pond area undeveloped. It will add to the inventory of open space for the townspeople to enjoy.

Article 2. Con- Purchasing the property by using the Town's General Funds will reduce the Town's ability to fund necessary expenditures affecting all taxpayers. It will limit our ability to pay for road repair, capital improvements and unfunded mandates.

The committee adjourned at 6:10. A motion made by L. Bathel and seconded by R. Horacek, vote passed 4-0-0.

Transcribed by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin A. Solek', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robin A. Solek  
Finance Committee Secretary