

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
SENIOR SERVICES ACTIVITIES ROOM, BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Attendees:

Appropriations Committee:

Geoff Grove, Peter Dennehy, Chad Mollica, Melissa Horne, Peter Clifford,

Housing Board of Trustees:

Chris Brady, Steve Boyajian, Steve Martin, Richard Staples, Ken Satterly,
Michael Winitsky

Michael Minardi (Tax Assessor), June Speakman (Town Council), Kate Weymouth
(Housing Board Liason)

Call to Order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes of the prior meeting were not available, will be approved at next meeting.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Town Manger's recommendation to fund it by transferring \$750,000 from the Fund Balance. The objective of the discussion was to determine if the Appropriation Committee would support the recommendation. Steve Boyajian gave a summary of the purpose and operation of the Trust Fund. Considerable discussion ensued about all the intricacies of the finances and deed restrictions. Chad Mollica went through some examples to try to understand the net impact on the taxpayers.

Motion: Endorse the funding of the Affordable Housing trust fund by transferring \$750,000 from the Fund Balance. Motion was defeated 3 to 2. Reasons stated for defeat were:

- Unwise use of reserves - they are needed to maintain and improve bond rating
- Proposal should be given more scrutiny by using capital or bond funding

The other recommendation from the Town Manager was to reimburse the Amey Spencer Trust Fund in the sum of \$285,742 for the purchase of the property located at 139 George Street. Discussion made it clear that, in time (probably this year), proceeds from the sale of the property would be sufficient to pay back the Trust.

Motion: Decline to endorse the reimbursement of the Amey Spencer Trust Fund the sum of \$285,742 for the purchase of the property located at 139 George Street. However, recognizing the need to pay back the Fund, endorse the town giving a lien on the property to the Trust to insure repayment in full. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. Michael Minardi described the methodology for determining the tax.

Motion: Raise the auto exemption from \$1500 to \$2000. Motion passed unanimously. The rationale for raising the exemption is to ease slightly the burden caused by the

regressive automobile tax. However, any taxes not collected by the automobile tax will necessarily increase the real estate tax levy by the same amount.

There was discussion about the salaries of elected town officials. Barrington salaries are lower than all other communities in the state. It was felt that the salaries are appropriate at this time.

Motion: Make no change to the salaries of the elected officials. Motion passed 4 to 1.

The April 28 meeting was cancelled.

The May 5 meeting will be devoted to preparation of the Budget Hearing presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes Prepared by Peter Clifford

Minutes Approved by Geoff Grove