

Town of Ayer

Finance Committee

Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall
Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday January 5, 2011

Present: Brian Muldoon; Chairman, Jesse Reich; Vice Chairman, Scott Houde; Clerk, and member Andrew Crowley

Absent:

One committee position open

Called to order at 7:04 pm by Brian Muldoon

- Mail
 - None
- Minutes
 - Outstanding minutes are 12/8/10 and 1/4/11
- Budget Review
 - Zoning Board of Appeals member Pauline Conley presented a budget of \$16,700 with a 3% decrease and \$16,350 with a 5% decrease
 - The ZBA office manager contract provides overtime after 40 hours of work. Since it is contractually binding, that amount must stay within the budget. However, the position itself is part time.
 - The 3% reduction is achieved by cutting overtime \$200 and some services and other charges are eliminated.
 - The 5% reduction is achieved by cutting the salary in addition to other changes in the 3% budget.
 - Fees are charged to applicant to come before the board and all costs must be covered. The money goes into the general budget. The ZBA meeting on January 19th has review of the fees on its itinerary.
 - The current reduction on budget will not hurt the board's ability to perform its job.
 - Board of Health member Mary Spinner presented a budget of \$9,910.49 with a 3% reduction and \$9,706.15 with a 5% reduction.
 - Hours for the board cannot be reduced since they currently only have 10 per week. The office supply budget is at the bare minimum and in danger of the board's ability to perform its duties.
 - The last 3 years have been supplemented by grants. FY2012 budget requires supplies to be squeezed out.
 - The animal inspector is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health to inspect farm animals. Animal Control is through the police department.
 - The Board of Health also presented a budget of \$28,524.00 for the Nashoba Board of Health
 - The cost for Nashoba Board of Health is an assessment and the same as the prior year.
 - Mary Spinner asked the Finance Committee for support on the following items
 - More management and less politics from the Board of Selectmen
 - Water and Sewer hookup fees are approved by the BOS but constantly waived for builders
 - The town still pays a reserve capacity to Devens for waste water treatment. This capacity is not needed and can be discontinued with a settlement payment
 - Revenue needs to be increased. The fees within town have not been reviewed and adjusted in years.
 - Requirement of Business Certificates annually. This will allow the town to review any businesses that owe taxes or Water/Sewer and suspend their ability to do business. Currently the licenses are good for 4 years but renewals are rarely sent out.
 - Public hearing regarding the sale of Nashoba Medical Center. There is a hearing scheduled for January 13th at the High School auditorium.
 - Home Petition Rule for employee benefits will allow the town to explore other health care for employees.
 - Redistricting due to the loss of a Massachusetts congressman could impact Ayer. The BOS should be contacting the state government to ensure we are not impacted.

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- TIFs need to be reviewed carefully. This is currently in the town policies.
 - Personnel policies need to be reviewed. Longevity and benefits need to be reeled in.
 - Pondview Estates condos – the bond was released due to town inaction and the street requires \$80,000 in work to make it acceptable to the town.
 - The building manager needs a full time custodian to allow him time for proper upkeep and conservation.
- Next meeting is 1/6/2011
- Motion to adjourn at 9:18pm

Motion	SH
Second	AC
B. Muldoon	Aye
J. Reich	Absent
S. Houde	Aye
A. Crowley	Aye
Vote	3 - 0

Brian Muldoon, Chairman _____ Date _____

Jesse Reich, Vice Chairman _____ Date _____

Scott Houde, Clerk _____ Date _____

Andrew Crowley, Member _____ Date _____