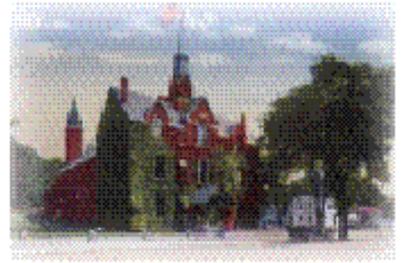


# Town of Ayer

## Finance Committee

### Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall  
Finance Committee Minutes

Thursday January 20, 2011

Present: Brian Muldoon; Chairman, Scott Houde; Clerk, and Andrew Crowley, member  
Absent: Jesse Reich Vice-Chairman  
One committee position open

Called to order at 7:08 pm by Brian Muldoon

- Mail
  - None
- Minutes
  - Outstanding minutes are 12/8/10, 12/16/10, 1/4/11, 1/5/11, 1/6/11, 1/11/11, 1/13/11, 1/19/11
  - Minutes will be approved at next meeting with full quorum
- Budget Review
  - Janice Livingston from American legion Post 139 presented a Memorial Day Parade budget of \$1,940 which represents a 3% decrease and \$1,900 which represents a 5% decrease from FY2011.
    - The cuts may affect the number of participants in the Memorial Day Parade. Any cuts would be adverse to the “look” of the parade with smaller numbers marching. Some paid members of the parade include bagpipers which are included since there is no high school marching band.
    - Additional costs include vehicles for gold star mothers, food for participants, bagpipers, and organizers. Marshalls are generally volunteers.
  - Janice Livingston from American legion Post 139 discussed a FY 2011 Stipend budget of \$600 no formal budget was presented.
    - The American Legion has no building so it meets at the Ayer Housing Authority Room in the Senior Center. The lack of its own building impacts the ability to raise revenue.
    - The stipend pays for scholarship programs, promoting veteran affairs, flag disposal/education, books, and misc events. There are 2 \$500 scholarships offered each year
    - The American Legion also offers scholarships for students to attend “Boys State” which is a program that student are immersed in the colonial period to learn about the founding and establishment of the United States Government.
  - Mary Spinner discussed the status of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade budget line item
    - Email was sent to FinCom on January 20<sup>th</sup> from town administrator not to zero out the line item as Mary Spinner had discussed with FinCom earlier. The BOS are determined to find the funding.
    - Workers are the primary need outside of financial funding. The current revolving account has \$5,400 but \$10,000 is needed for the fireworks. To date the fireworks company has not been approached for the contract for 2011. The company Ayer used in the past has been purchased by a larger company and Mary has concerns that the costs will increase from 2010.
    - In addition to the fireworks, there is cost for the all day event such as tent rental, waste removal, toilets, and music.
    - Mary anticipates the amount needed to replicate last year’s celebration is \$13,000. This represents a 60% increase in funding from FY2011
    - FinCom opts to keep the line item at the 3%/5% reduction until later review.
  - Jason Mayo from Ayer Youth Baseball and Softball presented a budget of \$3,880 which represents a 3% decrease and \$3,800 which represents a 5% decrease from FY2011.
    - Jason presented FinCom with a breakdown of expenses for 2010 which include insurance (\$2,303), First Aid Supplies (80.00), Partial Funding of Umpires (\$1,082) and Financial Aid for Families (\$535). The memo

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requests that the budget be level funded from FY2011 due to the anticipation for increase financial aid in the coming year.

- Income comes from registration for travel baseball (\$80 for first child \$60 for second) and non-travel (\$45/35). AYBS has had a 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth in the past but will not this year due to lack of volunteers. AYBS also has a late fee for any registration after February 1<sup>st</sup> but it has never been enforced.
  - All coaches and board members are volunteers.
  - The league has regionalized only in post season tournaments but it is open to doing so for the regular season numbers decrease to the level it becomes necessary.
- Sonia Patano from Ayer Shirley Youth Football presented a budget of \$3,880 which represents a 3% decrease and \$3,800 which represents a 5% decrease from FY2011.
- Costs are for 175 participants for football and cheerleading. ASYF has the lowest registration fees in the area when compared to local towns. ASYF was in the red (loss) by \$3,000 in 2009. One obstacle is families who sign up but do not pay the fee after the equipment is handed out and the season begins. Sonia stated they will take a different approach in the upcoming season to avoid this scenario. The prior year shortfalls have been covered by a reserve fund which is dwindling towards a zero balance.
  - The overall budget for ASYF is \$150,000 in a season which the team makes the post season. An average year is \$57,000. The larger expenses are field maintenance which was \$13,000 for FY2011, \$800 for field lining, and \$1,200 referees. The cost of water is \$7,000 from MassDevelopment which is included in Field Maintenance.
  - ASYF provides financial aid which was \$2,500 in FY2010.
  - The Town of Ayer funded ASYF \$4,000 for FY2011. The Town of Shirley did not fund the program but does offer the use of the field behind the middle school and office space.
  - The mix of participants is currently 90% from Ayer and 10% from Shirley. Sonya commented that with regionalization of the schools, the number of Shirley participant increased last season and she anticipates that will continue.
  - Registration fees are \$150 for player and \$100 for cheerleaders. There is a family max of \$300. There is no state funding or grants available. The state funds from NE Patriots license plates are directed to inner city programs.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:56pm

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

Brian Muldoon, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse Reich, Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Houde, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Crowley, Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_