

Finance Committee Minutes

Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center

Monday, February 12, 2007

1. Present: Joseph Collamati, Carol Dill, Raymond Szczepan, Henri Masson, Gary Maynard, Roland Lavallee, Toni Picariello

2. Absent: N/A

3. Meeting called to order: 7:25 p.m.

4. **JOINT MEETING WITH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**
Regarding 2008 Budget and Revenues.

Marilyn Mathieu was sick all week and did not have a chance to get an updated list of capital requests ready for distribution.

5. **SNOW AND ICE EMERGENCY SPENDING – DPW**
(Vote to “authorized emergency spending” of the Snow and Ice Account.

Donald DiMartino appeared. He requested that the FinCom vote to authorize emergency spending of the snow and Ice account. When it snows, the police will call the DPW to plow or salt. The DPW salts the roads before ice forms. Donald DiMartino would like to use a liquid mixture in the future. When the DPW is called out, 6 men show up – drivers for trucks and loader and a mechanic. The expenses are gone and there is about \$5,000 left in the overtime account. The cost of rock salt is \$44/ton.

Joseph Collamati/Raymond Szczepan motion to authorize emergency spending to continue the necessary snow and ice control operations. VOTE: 7/0.

6. **FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF, ETC. – FIRE CHIEF**

Richard Ranieri, Fire Chief appeared. He is asking for \$6,000 for a consultant, Roof Management Consultants, Inc. for the Fire Station Roof. The original contractors only fixed the metal roof in the 1990's. The seams need to be caulked and rechaulked annually. The Station was built in 1989 and the roof had a 10-year warranty, the roof is now 18-years old.

Chief Ranieri passed out a Roof Inspection and Evaluation Report from the consultants. The Repair Options are listed, per the report (see attached).

The FinCom would support the \$1,000 for repair the flat roof. This would last 3-4 years. Chief Ranieri was asked if he could take the \$1,000 from his budget and he informed us that he does not have any extra money. The FinCom would also support the

\$6,000 for the consultant. These requests will be included in an Article on the Town Meeting warrant.

Joseph Collamati believes that Option 3, Replace metal roof w/shingle roof for \$10,000 would be the best option. The metal roof would be replaced with an asphalt shingle roof. "This option is less expensive than the metal roof, but changes the aesthetic appearance of the building." (from the Report).

Item #1, Masonry wall repairs consists of cracks in the blocks that need to be fixed.

It was mentioned that the South School roof is in need of repairs and the FinCom has not been informed of this. Water leaks onto the gym hardwood floor. A letter/email will be sent to Mr. Maddox inquiring as to the status of the condition of the roof.

No action was taken on the Fire Chief's requests at this time and will be discussed again when the Town Meeting Warrant is posted and FinCom scheduled hearings.

7. **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER – OJI ACCOUNT – CFO**

Marilyn Mathieu appeared requesting another \$18,000 from the Reserve Fund for OJI account. There are now 4 employees out on OJI (2 firefighters and 2 policemen). The balance in the Reserve Fund as of now is \$35,400.00 before this request.

Per M.G.L. c.41, §111F, 100% Salaries are paid out of the OJI account (for police & fire only), overtime is paid out of the department salary account. Any money left over goes back to free cash.

It was brought up that the salaries should be paid out of the department's salary account and the medical expenses should be paid out of the OJI. The FinCom agrees with this – Marilyn Mathieu will look into changing the payments.

Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to transfer \$18,000 from the Reserve Fund to the OJI Account. VOTE: 7/0.

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Accept minutes for January 8, 2007.

Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to accept the January 8, 2007 minutes. VOTE: 7/0.

B. Vote on FinCom & Reserve Fund Budget

The FinCom budget will be level funded and the figures are as listed:

Part-time Personnel	\$2,780.00
Sub-Total Salary	2,780.00
Postage	150.00
Printing/Copying	1,420.00
Dues/subscriptions	320.00
Office Supplies	405.00
Sub-Total Expenses	2,295.00
TOTAL	\$5,075.00

Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to accept and submit the FinCom budget as listed above. VOTE: 7/0

The amount of the Reserve Fund account was cut by Marilyn Mathieu from \$150,000 to \$100,000. There will be no vote on this until Marilyn Mathieu looks it over again. The FinCom is concerned about not having enough funds to cover the year incase of emergency. This year we are running close to running out of funds because of the OJI problems.

C. Pay salary & expenses

Carol Dill/Henri Masson motion to reimbursement Toni Picariello for ink cartridges in the amount of \$104.98 and pay Toni Picariello's stipend for October 2006 though January 2007 in the amount of \$926.68. VOTE: 6/0/1 (Toni Picariello abstained)

D. COA's roof problems

Toni Picariello asked for an update on the COA's leaking roof. The same company who looked at the Fire Department's roof, Roof Management Consultants, Inc. will be looking at it.

E. School Budget hearings:

Raymond Szczepan attended the school budget hearing. The school is looking for \$400-500,000 increase; \$460,000 is for salary increases. Since 2003 the school has spent \$1.7 million on new staff. The principal's originally requested \$702,000 for non-personnel items.

The student population was 2,680 in 2006 and 2,588 in 2007 – a decrease in students.

The high school will be accredited in 2008 and will be requesting books.

Adjourned: ***Carol Dill/Roland Lavallee motion to adjourn. VOTE: 7/0, 9:04 p.m.***

(Accepted March 26, 2007)