

Finance Committee Minutes

Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center

Monday, March 12, 2007

1. Present: Carol Dill, Joseph Collamati, Gary Maynard, Raymond Szczepan, Toni Picariello, Roland Lavallee, Henri Masson
2. Absent: N/A
3. Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.
4. **TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR**
Article 1, Account 138 - Treasurer – Marilyn Mathieu and Denis Fraine appeared.

Salaries increased because of step increases. The salaries increase by 3%, then a 5% step increase, which equals a total of 8% salary increase.

Total budget has increased 6.9%.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend \$95,912, broken down as \$70,687 for salaries and \$25,225 for expenses. VOTE: 7/0

Article 1, Account 139 – Collector

The large increase in the Professional Services is for ComStar who is the 3rd party billing company for ambulance collection. They charge 5%.

Town went with Advanced Life Support (“ALS”). They can charge more when dealing with insurance company. Medicare is paying more. A lot of time they accept the Medicare rates and will write-off the rest.

Postage is increasing so the budget reflects the increase. The total budget has increased 12.64%.

Henri Masson/Raymond Szczepan motion to recommend \$217,126, broken-down as follows: \$134,026 and expenses are \$83,100. VOTE: 7/0

5. **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**
Article 1, Account #137

The FinCom questioned the 50% increase in the Elected Board salaries. One of the employees was on the Board and not collecting the stipend. That person is no longer on the Board and the new member will now be receiving the stipend. The total budget increased by 3.71%.

Joseph Collamati/Carol Dill motion to recommend \$115,505, broken-down as \$101,780 for salaries and \$13,725 for expenses. VOTE: 7/0

Article 10 – Capital Outlay, Revaluation

This is the yearly expenditure for revaluations. The \$45,000 will be funded by Overlay Surplus Account. The balance in that account is \$345,000.

The Overlay amount is determine by the Board of Assessors and is used to pay-out abatements. Whatever is left over goes into the Overlay Surplus Account. The Overlay amount is added to the Town budget. \$200,000 is proposed for this upcoming budget.

Henri Masson/Carol Dill motion to recommend \$45,000 for Revaluation. Funding will be transferred from the Overlay Surplus Account. VOTE: 7/0.

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. **Fire Department Roof Leak**

The Roof Leak will be coming up under Amend Article 1 – Municipal Buildings. We will get the details when we hear Amend Article 1.

B. **FY2008 Proposed Cherry Sheet**

The FinCom discussed the Cherry Sheet. Under Local Aid Estimates is a line item “School Choice Receiving Tuition” for \$61,500. This is a separate revolving fund under the control of the School Department. This is the first year the Bellingham has accepted out-of-town students (School Choice program).

Under Local Aid Assessments there is an assessment for the MBTA in the amount of \$100,258. Even though we do not have the MBTA going through town, we are assessed as a bordering town. In the future, we will be able to join a regional transit system that would aid the elderly.

C. **Pearl Street Mill Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 20, 2007**

Denis Fraine explained that this meeting would be very informative and explain the tax increment financing. The proposed buyer on the Mill is applying for a Community Development Action Grant where the State partners with commercial developers. This would help with the cost of the hazardous waste clean-up.

D. **Accept February 12, 2007 Minutes**

We will do this as a future meeting.

E. South School Roof Leaks.

We got a response to the email that Toni Picariello sent to the Superintendent inquiring on the status of the roof leaks. The response was from the School Principal and gave no information.¹

Adjourned: ***Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to adjourn. VOTE: 7/0.*** 8:30 p.m.

(Accepted March 26, 2007)

¹ Per Raymond Szczepan suggestion, Toni Picariello will send a letter to the Superintendent and School Committee requesting details on the leaks.