

Finance Committee Minutes

Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center

Monday, March 19, 2007

1. Present: Joseph Collamati, Toni Picariello, Roland Lavallee, Henri Masson, Roland Lavallee
2. Absent: Raymond Szczepan, Carol Dill
3. Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.
4. **ARTICLE 22 – SALE OF LAND, JUDY LANE (Petitioner: James & Lauren Cerone)**

James & Lauren appeared and showed the committee the plan and what town land would be transferred to them. They will buy the land for \$1.00 and they will be responsible for all deed and recording costs. The road was a cul-de-sac, but extended to complete a development of houses. See DPW's explanation:

"This should be a zero cost to the Town and we will not get anything from the sale. (We took the land to the center line of Judy Lane a while back for a dollar to make it an accepted street.) The Cerone's engineer should be preparing the plan and they should be paying for all recording. I have not seen the plans yet.

I assume that this is the land which is the section of an old cul-de-sac at what was once the end of Judy Lane . It is roughly shaped like a sliver moon. The lane got extended several years ago. We fixed the street and installed curbing so about 25 feet on each side of the old cul-de-sac became part of the abutter's front yards visually. This just makes the land that looks like their front yard theirs to own. The Bibbo's had a similar article a few meetings ago to acquire the similar section across the street from the Cerone's.

Same as Bibbo's, we don't need it; they can have it if they are willing to pay the cost to map and get the plan and deed recorded."

Henri Masson/Joseph Collamati motion to recommend the sale of this property from the Town of Bellingham to James and Lauren Cerone. VOTE: 5/0.

5. LIBRARY

ARTICLE 1, ACCOUNT 610

Charlotte Rabbitt, Michael Carr and Mary Ambler appeared.

There were questions:

a. Why is part-time personnel increasing by 12%? They are adding a person. The children's services have increased by 400% within the last couple years. They are very busy between 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Most kids go their after school and it is a safe place for them. There is usually 50 kids in the library every afternoon.

They increased the electric and gas line item because of the increased costs in energy.

They need to adhere to the State standards and spend 15% of their budget on books. Their computer consultant charges \$25/hour and works about 10 hours/month.

The library received \$20,000 from the State, per the Cherry Sheet.

Toni Picariello/Henri Masson motion to recommend the library budget of \$456,493, broken down as salaries \$280,293 and expenses \$176,200. VOTE: 5/0

ARTICLE 11, NO. 1 – REVOLVING FUND

This revolving fund is for revenues for overdue books, etc.

Toni Picariello/Henri Masson motion to maintain the revolving account not-to-exceed \$15,000. VOTE: 5/0

6. CONSERVATION COMMISSION Article 1, Account 171

Clifford Matthews appeared. He explained that their professional service might increase from \$7,418 to \$8,800. Controlling the weeds at Arcand Park is difficult. Roland Lavallee suggested permanent hydraulic dredging, which is more environmental friendly. Cliff will speak to Aquatic Control. They might ask to increase their budget by \$742.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend the ConCom's budget at \$48,808, break down is salaries \$39,140 and expenses of \$9,668. VOTE: 5/0

7. BUILDING INSPECTOR

ARTICLE 1, ACCOUNT 251

Stuart LeClaire and Earl Vater appeared. There are 4 people in the Building Department. 2 full-time inspectors and 2 support staff.

Toni Picariello asked:

a. Why 2 full time inspectors were needed when area towns have 1 full time and 1 part-time inspector? Bellingham needs 2 inspectors.

b. Why do both full time inspectors travel together to inspections? They can do the inspection faster.

c. What are Earl Vater's hours for his part-time inspection position in the Town of Medway? He works on weekends and nights.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend the budget at \$140,537, breakdown with salaries of \$133,867 and expenses of \$6,670. VOTE: 5/0

8. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

ARTICLE 1, ACCOUNT 210

Chief Gerald Daigle appeared. The police contract is under negotiation so the salary figures do not reflect an increase.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend the budget at \$2,500,674, breakdown as follows: salaries \$2,358,774 and expenses of \$141,900. VOTE: 5/0

ARTICLE 10 – CAPITAL OUTLAY, REVOTE RE: 3 CRUISERS

This is a rewording of the Article only. At the Fall Town Meeting it was voted 3 marked cruisers. He wants it changed to 2 marked cruisers and 1 unmarked cruiser. The unmarked cruiser is for the Chief.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to amend Article 3, Capital Outlay of the 10/11/2006 Special Town Meeting as to wording only – from 3 marked cruisers to 2 marked cruisers and 1 unmarked cruiser. VOTE: 5/0

ARTICLE 11, NO. 10 – REVOLVING FUNDS

This revolving fund is when a company requests a detail with a car, the Town can charge for the police car.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to maintain the revolving fund not-to-exceed \$40,000. VOTE: 5/0.

9. **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

A. Gary Maynard informed the FinCom that if anyone had questions regarding the school budget they are:

1. School Budget Workshop – 3/27/2007 at 7:00 p.m. Keogh Administrative Bldg.
2. Budget Hearing – 4/10/2007

Adjourned: ***Roland Lavalley/Henri Masson motion to adjourn. VOTE: 5/0. 8:40 p.m.***

(Accepted April 9, 2007)