



TOWN OF DARTMOUTH MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
400 Slocum Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747
Phone (508) 910-1802
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Shannon Jenkins, Madam Chairman
Mary Louise-Nunes, Madam Vice-Chairman
Stephen Mitchell, Clerk

Members Present: Shannon Jenkins (Chair)[SJ], Mary-Louise Nunes (Vice-Chair)[MLN], David Ferreira[DF], Patrick Roth[PR], Greg Lynam[GL], Peter Friedman[PF], Barry Walker[BW]

Absent: Stephen Mitchell, Jason Wentworth

Guests: David Cressman[DC], Gary Soares[GS], David Hickox[DH], Lee Azinheira[LA], Paul Pacheco[PP]

Pursuant to a call to order and notice duly given in the manner required by law and the By-laws of the Town of Dartmouth, a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Select Board was held on Thursday, March 11th, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 315

6:30PM – Pledge of allegiance and meeting called to order.

6:33PM – Approval of the minutes---tabled until the writer of the minutes is present

POLICE BUDGET

6:34PM—Acting Police Chief Gary Soares[GS] began by reviewing the overall police budget. He indicated that the chief and deputy line item was likely to decrease with the arrival of the new chief.

PF asked about the command structure.

GS—the new chief will have the most influence in determining that. The deputy will not be under civil service and is not eligible for the state assessment program.

GL -- asked for assessment center description

GS—Rank and file officers can go through the physical assessment center in addition to the standard paper test.

This helps management make promotion decisions and is especially useful when two officers have the same paper test score.

PF—asked about overtime situation

GS—restaffing will be a priority with patrolmen being used to fill sergeant and detective positions

PF—How many patrolmen on road?

GS—8-9

BW-- Ex-Chief Pacheco indicated that 7 officers on the road was the right number. With generous 30% coverage for leave time, this requires 38 officers and we have 49.

GS—Many of these officers will be used to fill vacant sergeant and detective positions.

GL—Lockup fees?

GS—700 arrests per year. Crime is not up but a younger staff tends to be more aggressive in their policing

GL—Capital needs?

GS—70 radios @\$2k each. They must be up and running by 6/30/10 to make use of grant money.

PF—Can we get by with less than 70 and phase them in?

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GS—Yes, with a minimum of 20 but this would leave us vulnerable during a major crisis when the entire force would need to be called in. The new radios would also save on maintenance costs.

SJ—Holiday fund Request for Transfer

GS--This reflects the total cost of two remaining fiscal year holidays if all officers choose to work their holiday

PF—MOTION to transfer \$4,236.85 the amount of the line item deficit and wait to transfer more to cover the actual holidays

BW—second

Motion carries unanimously

7:17 - DPW

DH—began by reviewing the budget, slight admin increase, engineering cost reduction due to not filling a retiree's position; Highway division is level funded on expenses

MLN—Can we use flagmen for town projects?

DH—No, due to police contract. Also if union flagmen are required, they cost more than police overtime

PR—Who is responsible for the road service on Tucker Rd?

DH—The contractor is. We are taking money from retainage to cold patch until it settles and is ready for final coat Solid Waste \$450k decrease in costs due to P.A.Y.T. with additional savings at regional landfill. We may be able to reduce PAYT fees going forward.

SJ--Can we use bag tags or standard size bins

GL—we should consider automated trash container pickup to reduce manpower

BW—questioned need for overnight shipping costs to deliver orange bags to vendors

DH—The bag contract is a full service deal. They store and distribute as part of the deal.

DF—Delinquent orange bag vendors?

DH—Not bad with one local business owing \$20k

PF—Is private road garbage pickup possible?

DH—This would increase liability and the equipment would have trouble maneuvering in some places making the decision about who could get service and who couldn't difficult.

SNOW and ICE

DH—Recommends increasing the budget slowly over the next few years to bring in line with actual spending.

LA—Cannot deficit spend if you appropriate less than previous year

Liquid brine added to salt is helping to reduce hours and salt costs

GL—How does that work? Does it make slurry?

PP+LA—Complete explanation of how the mister and spreaders work.

PR—brine reduces bounce and gets better coverage

DH--Recycling, slight increase, Transfer Station, slight increase, Construction Division, slight increase. Need to assess adjusting allocations for Enterprise Funds in general. Construction division does a lot of work for fund, examples-COA, Police property, DeMello School. We need to make sure the right people are paying for services.

DC—We need to look forward instead of backwards when allocating expenses. General Fund should not pick up tab if water and sewer don't have projects. The swings in charges to General Government have been too large.

SJ—We should consider allocating \$200k for general fund DPW work, above that should be CIPs.

PF—Cushman School has money already appropriated of one time revenue to get ready for FDK

DH—CPC projects can also help fund Construction Division.

Water Enterprise

DH—Lots of rain, water revenues down, fixed costs are putting fund in red. Depended on new growth in past which has also been down.

SJ—Salary expenses for "other" went from \$453 to \$530K.

DH—A new position was planned there but nixed on account of the economy, New number is \$463k

C.I.P.

DH—Highway targeting North Dartmouth roads and drainage issues, new street sweeper and small dozer on tap.

PR—Amount of sweepers needed are ch. 90 mandated based on miles of road.

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BW—Are you comfortable with the transition of the wind turbine project from the AEC?

DH—Yes, we are working on site requirements now and hope to keep the project moving along without delays.

BW—Can the problems at the bottom of Rogers and Rapoza streets be remediated?

PP—Probably not, we are only allowed to do so much without extensive permitting. We power wash the front end loader after every use near salt water.

PF—MOTION TO ADJOURN

DF—SECOND

Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Walker