

**Finance Committee Meeting  
February 21, 2012**

**Present:** Tom Clark, Bernie Kubiak, Carol Moro, Albert Olmstead, Mark Russo, John Paciorek, Chief Wozniakewicz

Emergency Medical Service – Present Mark Russo

The Deerfield Emergency Medical Service is working with a consultant to look into the possibility of regionalization. Mr. Russo said it's a familiar situation of declining numbers of volunteers available to operate the service and increasing need for emergency medical assistance. He is hopeful that the consultant's report, which is expected to be out soon, will discuss several options. He commented that these days, where everybody has a video device, there is an expectation of increasingly higher standards for the medical professionals. Statistics for 2011: EMS responded to 632 calls and made 433 transports. 180 calls were for mutual aid. The Town is setting aside \$25,000/ yr in anticipation of replacement of the ambulance at some point. There was discussion about the amounts of monies owed and the efforts to collect them. Mr. Kubiak explained that to satisfy DOR the Town has added funds to the account. Life expectancy of current ambulance is 8 or 9 years. Cost to replace is expected to be \$250, 000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek, seconded by Mr. Clark, and voted, to approve the ambulance budget requests.**

Police Department - Present: Chief Wozniakewicz

The Chief reviewed his request. He said he will be looking at Fords and Chevys; He said the Dodge vehicles are not dependable. He said the Crown Vic's have been driven for 3 years and traded at 120,000 miles. The department has 3 cars and an Explorer. Some projects, such as the records storage system, have been put on hold. Cruisers had iPads rather than laptops. Statistics: Assistance requests for 2011 were 387; there were 364 medical assists (ambulance). There is a tentative agreement that is expected to be ready for signing by the union and the selectmen the first week of March. A Special Town Meeting will need to be called to appropriate \$10,000 for fiscal 2011. It was thought a 9/10's vote would be needed.

**A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek, seconded by Mr. Clark, and voted to approve the police budget requests.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek, seconded by Mr. Clark, and voted, to approve the increase of the Selectman's budget by \$100 for emergency planning.**

Also discussed:

FRCOG budget documents were handed out for review. Note was made that it was level funded, except for an 8% increase in mandatory items (unfunded liability). The Town's AQB (real estate value) went up.

Frontier budget – Deerfield's portion of the budget is up based on property value and number of students enrolled. Mr. Kubiak said that Whately has agreed to review the apportionment formula.

Mr. Kubiak reported that the Board of Selectmen is interested in a town-wide notification system (reverse 911, Code Red, Blackboard Connect). He called the committee's attention to the vacation reserve fund which he and Mary need to review. He said he learned today that the \$5,000 budgeted for veteran's benefits will not be enough.

Mr. Kubiak said he hasn't plugged in the Free Cash number and needs to find out how much of the Overlay Reserve funds can be released by the Assessors.

Mr. Paciorek made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, and voted, to move the Newton article for \$226.

Tom Clark reviewed the list of items discussed by the Capital Improvements Committee: highway tractors, IT equipment, police cruisers, compactor at the transfer station, changes in the hauling contract, radio upgrades, monies set aside for new ambulance and new roof on elementary school. Replacement of doors at the elementary school may be done with green energy grant money.

The matter of bonding for big projects such as the school roof and the new highway garage building reminded of the State House Refunding Bonds. He explained that a special law had been passed to assist towns with major purchases. The town agreed to pay 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the principal each year; banks were encouraged to compete to provide the lowest rate to the town. Monies earned by the banks would be tax free. Mr. Kubiak thought the law may have been changed; he will look into this.

Next week the Highway Superintendent and WWTP Operator will be coming in.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps