

**Finance Committee Meeting
Deerfield, Massachusetts
February 10, 2014
Minutes**

Members present: Tom Clark, Skip Olmstead, John Paciorek, William Cummings, Mary Stokarski

Members absent: Ralph Healy

Non-members present: Carolyn Ness, Bruce St. Peters, Brenda Hill, Mark Gilmore, Kayce Warren.

- The Deerfield Finance Committee met at the Deerfield Elementary School at 7:00 pm for the school budget hearing. At 8:00 pm, the Finance Committee reconvened at the Town Hall for their meeting.
- Mary Stokarski asked for information on the pay/cost of living increases accounts for town employees so we could vote the department budgets. We explained how we didn't see this in the past, but looked at the overall department budgets. Mark Gilmore explained the select board's request (instruction) to the departments that they hold under 2% increase for overall budgets.
- Bruce St. Peters from the assessor's department talked about why they were asking for an 11.54% increase for assessors. The requirements of the work, state mandated training, and difficulty finding town citizens with skillset and desire to do it. This increase amounts to \$250 per assessor.
- Skip Olmstead motioned that the personnel committee review all elected officials' stipends and make recommendations for increases in salary. Motion was seconded by William Cummings. The motion was defeated.
- Tom Clark moved to increase the assessors' salary to \$7,250 (a \$250 increase). John Paciorek seconded the motion, and it was carried 3 for, 2 against, no abstentions.
- John Paciorek moved that the selectmen send a request to the personnel committee to conduct a study on additional raises for elected officials and come back with the results by March 15, 2015. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- John Paciorek moved to approve the assessor's clerk's salary at \$46,855. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- The Finance Committee and Bruce St. Peters agreed that the assessors will take \$130 from their total budget to reach a 2% increase totaling \$21,560. That number was voted and passed unanimously.
- We went over the budget report for 2015. There were question on the excluded debt. Skip Olmstead and Kayce Warren will get together to answer questions.
- We talked about free cash, which is \$819,000. If we keep to policy of 5% protection in free cash, then \$700,000 would come from the \$819,000. This would leave \$119,000 in free cash for capital improvement in the 2015 budget. More discussion will follow.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm. The next meeting is February 25, 2014, at the town hall. The Deerfield Elementary School Committee will attend.