

**Essex Finance Committee**  
**April 2, 2014**  
**11:00 am**  
**T.O.H.P Burnham Library**

Members Present: Ken Riehl, Richard Ross and Jeff Soulard

**1. Finalize FY15 Budget Booklet**

The Finance Committee voted to finalize the FY15 budget and Finance Committee Report.

Final changes to the budget included:

- Stabilization Fund (Town Building Improvements) – reduce from \$20,000 to \$1,000
- Stabilization Fund (Recreational Capital Improvements) – reduce from \$20,000 to \$1,000
- Stabilization Fund (Vehicles and Equipment) – reduce from \$20,000 to \$1,000
- Police Budget – additional reduction of \$10,000
- Fire Budget – increase the Fire Chief Salary from \$84,000 to \$7,200 and increased Firefighter Salaries from \$78,247 to \$107,609.

The FY15 budget submitted by the Fire Department included the addition of a full-time chief position which resulted in a net increase of roughly \$53,000 over the FY14 budget. The addition of a full-time chief is still being evaluated by the Board of Selectmen, the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee and will not be part of the budget presented at Town Meeting in May. We have adjusted the budget to reflect an increase to the annual stipend for the Fire Chief from \$3,600 to \$7,200 and have restored Firefighter Salaries to the amount in the FY14 budget. It is likely that the boards will finish evaluating the full-time chief position over the next few months and a recommendation will be made at our Fall Town Meeting.

**2. FY14 Budget Items**

3. The Harbor Master is working with a state agency to obtain a used boat for little or no cost to the Town. The Finance Committee voted to authorize the use of up to \$2,000 from the Reserve Fund if needed to obtain the boat prior to Town Meeting. Any other costs associated with getting the boat ready of Town use (repairs, installing a door, etc.) will be funded with Waterways Funds by vote at Town Meeting.

**4. Old Business**

None

**5. New Business**

None

**6. Public Comment**

None