

Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 2, 2012

Board Members in attendance: Peter Beals, Nikki Newton, Gordon Andrews, Peg Fitzgerald, Dick Wright, Karen Fava and Paul Weckbacher.

Others in Attendance: Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seeling, Town Administrator; Mike Schleiff, Selectmen; Kim Roy, Selectmen; Maureen Rogers, Wage and Personnel; William Carrico, Fire Chief; Bob Badore, Highway Surveyor.

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm
Meeting Adjourned at 10:43pm

Gordon Andrews made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 19, 2012. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Peter Beals made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 26, 2012. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Mail

The Fire Chief has put the Committee on notice that there may be a small shortfall in his wage account due to an employee's 111F leave. If that is the case, he may be able to do a line item transfer from somewhere else in his budget to cover it. If not, he wanted us to be aware that he may need a Reserve Fund Transfer. Kendra will make a notation as a possible future expenditure of 1,000.00.

A memo from Charlie Seelig informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen indicated that they are in favor of hiring two additional Sergeants for the Police Dept. The total number of full time positions would not change, it would just decrease by two patrol officers and increase by two Sergeants.

Article 5 Line Items

Line 40 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 10,461.00 for Cons Commission Agent. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 55 – Amount can be amended at Town Meeting if three new cruisers are approved. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 16,000.00 for Police Cruiser Maintenance. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 59 – Should be reworded from Retainers to Incentive Based Program. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 10,600.00 for Fire Retainers. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 60 – Includes Full Time and Call Firefighters. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 47,873.00 for Fire Training. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 63 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 14,000.00 for Fire Vehicle/Equip Maintenance. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 63.5 – The new ambulance should give us a break on these costs. We are purchasing a Terrastar International Diesel. This will be used as the primary ambulance until its warranty expires. The Chief feels that the majority of the budget from Line 63 (previously combined with Line 63.5) was eaten up by A1 which is the ambulance that we are replacing. He feels we should be alright if we choose to level fund. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 15,000.00 for Fire Medical Supplies. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously. (This number combined with the 14,000.00 approved for Line 63 will total 29,000.00 which is level funded from FY 12).

Line 66 – 1,000.00 in office supplies, 425.00 in automated business machines, 750.00 in equipment repair and replacement, 750.00 in mileage and training. Total of 2,925.00. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 2,925.00 for Comm. Center Expense. Seconded by Dick Wright. Opposed Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed.

Line 84 – Peter Beals made a motion to approve 268,199.00 for Highway Wages. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 88 – Paul Weckbacher made a motion to approve 38,500.00 for Highway Equipment. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 89 – Includes cost of asphalt, oil costs and fuel costs. Peg asked if the money can be taken out of the Article for Town Roads. Bob indicated that could be an option. Roads that are scheduled to be completed in FY13 are South St, Walnut St. and possibly Pine St. There will be Chapter 90 money for South and Walnut Streets in the amount of 1.5 million. The money is already set aside at the State level they just need to provide a proposal for the work to be done. No application is needed. All Ch. 90 work will be contracted out. It will not be town employees completing the work. Paul Weckbacher made a motion to approve 74,355.00 for Highway Town Roads. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 97 – Peter Beals made a motion to approve 63,949.00 for Cemetery Wages. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 98 – Karen Fava made a motion to approve 5,320.00 for Cemetery Supplies and Equipment. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 122 – Includes Steps, Outreach Worker grade increase, Drivers, Clerk and Director. Peg feels that the additional Clerk hours are merited. This would be an increase of 2,610.00. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 141,047.00 for Council on Aging Wages to include the increase in Clerk hours. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Gordon Andrews, Paul Weckbacher, Karen Fava, Peter Beals and Dick Wright opposed. Motion did not pass. Additional discussion was had regarding level funding/service. Paul is totally against the additional clerk and driver hours as other departments have been asked to level fund/service and we should expect the same from the COA. He suggested we let the additional hours go to a town vote in the form of an article. Paul Weckbacher made a motion to approve 138,437.00 for Council on Aging Wages and let the hours increase go to the town in the form of an Article. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 144 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 1.00 for Beautification Committee. Seconded by Peter Beals. Karen expressed an interest to amend the vote to approve 500.00. Peter withdrew his second and Peg withdrew her motion. Gordon feels that is a “nice to have” not a “need to have” and therefore is a slap in the face to the other departments that have been urged to level fund. Paul agreed that we need to be consistent and he would be not being inclined to expand the budget. Peter agrees with the concept but also agrees with Gordon that it is not fair to the other departments that did level fund.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 500.00 for the Beautification Committee. Seconded by Karen Fava. Vote was 4 yes, 3 no. Motion passes.

Line 157 – Includes a 10% increase. Peter Beals made a motion to approve 140,650.00 for Gas and Oil All Depts. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 158 – Paul Weckbacher made a motion to approve 78,650.00 for Heating Oil All Buildings. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

ATM Articles – General Fund

Many discussions were had concerning replacing equipment on the Capital Plan. Peter said he is a big supporter of Capital Planning but we have a cash flow problem. Peg does not feel that we are in that tight of a spot; we just need to adjust our philosophy. The general consensus of the Committee is that the replacement criteria should be based on hours of use not age when it comes to replacing equipment.

1 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 75,000.00 for the General Reserve Fund and 25,000.00 for the Water Reserve for a total of 100,000.00. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to move 65,000.00 from undesignated funds to reach the 150,000.00 balance for Town Roads (when combined with the motion below for an Article for Special Town Meeting to use 85,000.00 from Snow and Ice, will total 150,000.00). Seconded by Nikki Newton. Peter Beals opposed. Motion passed.

3 – Dick Wright made a motion to approve 210,000.00 for Fire New Ambulance. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

12 – Karen Fava made a motion to approve 2,750.00 for South Shore Women's Center. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

13 – Karen Fava made a motion to approve 2,750.00 for South Coastal Legal Services. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

14 – Already voted on at last weeks meeting.

There was discussion regarding which items can be transferred to the Special Town Meeting. Gordon would like to spend left over snow and ice money to fund some of the Capital Plan. Let the minutes reflect that Peg and Gordon agreed for a change!

Gordon Andrews made a motion to add an Article to the Special Town Meeting to move 85,000.00 from Line 90 Snow and Ice and spend it on Town Roads (ATM General Fund Article 2). Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously

Warrant Articles

Peter submitted and read a copy of the letter he wrote for the Town Warrant from the Finance Committee. Gordon Andrews made a motion to approve the letter. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – There is a 2% of payroll increase recommendation from Wage and Personnel. This is pure revenue against expenditure figure. Gordon said we should not be spending to the max. If we do why have we been talking about the tax rate since November? Peg feels that the increase is deserved; we are able to fund it and should do so. Dick said that we are trying to stop the bleeding and not be a revolving door for employees. That trend will continue if we continue to not approve payroll increases. Peter stated that it is a matter of the economy around us. It is a 2% increase each year and it is always more than it

appears. Karen suggested that we possibly do something less than the 2% recommendation. Peter Beals moved that we NOT support the 2% payroll increase recommended by the Wage and Personnel Board. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Vote was 4 yes and 3 no. Motion to NOT support the 2% increase passed.

3 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to approve a level funded budget as printed for Elected Town Officials. Seconded by Dick Wright. Peg Fitzgerald opposed. Motion passed.

5 – Peter Beals made a motion to continue the Revolving Funds as printed. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Summary

Next meeting on 4/9 will include: Further discussion of the Articles.

Dick Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Meeting adjourned at 10:43pm.

Richard Wright
Corresponding Clerk