

Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 9, 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; Kim Roy, Selectmen;  
Meeting called to order at 7:05pm  
Meeting Adjourned at 9:45pm

Dick Wright made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 2, 2012. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Overview

As of last week, we have some excess which if left unspent, would end up lowering the tax rate. That is not such a bad place to be in. Under Peter's plan, if we suggest not funding 700,000.00 of the Capital Plan and only fund 300,000.00 that will net us to zero which is what we need to propose anyway. We have attempted to keep Operational Spending pretty flat and the Debt Exclusion increase from last year to this year is 75,000.00. Peg mentioned that she is more concerned with the individual tax bills not going up than the levy. She would like to develop a 3 or 4 year plan to get the tax rate under control. It is the only way to control it for the long term. Peter loves the idea of a plan to control it, however does not like only setting aside a certain amount just to stay on a schedule instead of setting aside all that we are able to. Nikki suggested that if we try to save money by cutting the Capital Plan we are going to be in twice as much trouble next year when we skimp this year. Peter explained that the Capital Plan exists to try to make spending more level per year and take the peaks and valleys out of the Plan in the future. He is not sure that the Capital Plan means that everything is going to go south if we cut items this year. Certainly for the smaller items we could probably skip a year and have it not be a catastrophe. Peg reminded the Committee that we used to have a Capital Plan along with a funding plan and it worked very smoothly. It was done with the help of the state. At the point it was instituted the DOR had a plan on how to do it. Building the school, contractors required a Capital Plan. If it falls apart it is because we don't have the time or the talent to keep it up.

Gordon suggested not supporting Article 7 on the Special Town Meeting. Paul said that there is already 433,000.00 in an account that has not been touched. Why should we put more capital in that account that just sits there and does not get used for the town roads? Gordon argued that if we don't continue to put the money in it is going to hurt us in the long run. We have been putting 150,000.00 in that account for at least 14 years with no inflation. If we don't do it we will never reclaim that 150,000.00 total. Dick said that 150,000.00 alone doesn't go anywhere. We need to have an account built up to cover larger projects. The Selectmen have not taken a position on it. Paul and Peter will approach Bob Badore regarding all of the questions that the Committee still has. Peter asked if there is a sense among the Committee that we should not fund everything and is there a limit to what we fund. Peg again stressed the need to have a plan and Peter agreed.

### Special Articles

1 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend funding. His motion was rescinded. Karen Fava made a motion in favor of funding. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend not funding this article. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Vote was 5 to 2. Motion to recommend not funding this article passed.

3 – Karen Fava made a motion to give a recommendation at Town Meeting for Articles 3, 4 and 5 as no figures were given. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

4 - Karen Fava made a motion to give a recommendation at Town Meeting for Articles 3, 4 and 5 as no figures were given. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

5 - Karen Fava made a motion to give a recommendation at Town Meeting for Articles 3, 4 and 5 as no figures were given. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

6 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

7 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

8 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend the Article as printed. Seconded by Dick Wright. After discussion, the above should be held until talking to Bob Badore. Gordon Andrews made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion to hold the Article passed unanimously.

9 – Hold per Kim Roy as the Capital Planning Committee hasn't decided yet.

10 – Hold as there is not an amount given.

11 – Kim Roy believes that the Communications Center Committee will pass this over. No vote is needed.

### Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

1 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend as printed. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – Hold until next week.

3 – Already voted on.

4 – Already voted on.

5 – Already voted on.

6 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion for the source of the funding of 75,000.00 to be from Undesignated Revenue and 25,000.00 to be from Water Revenue. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

7 – Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

8 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

9 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

10 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

11 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

12 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

13 - Collective Bargaining – Hold for an actual amount.

14 – Indexing Non Union personnel to Union personnel. Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

15 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

16 – Gordon Andrews suggested changing it to 65,000.00 from Undesignated Funds. Hold the Article.

17 – Expect this Article to be passed over. Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

18 – Hold for discussion.

19 – Peg Fitzgerald suggested that we add the wording “for the life of the bond” then we would split the revenues again. Dick Wright made a motion to recommend after adding the above wording. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

20 – Hold

21 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Nikki Newton and Peg Fitzgerald voted against the Motion. Motion passed.

22 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

23 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Dick Wright. Gordon Andrews and Peter Beals abstained. Motion passed. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to fund from Stabilization. Seconded by Dick Wright. Peg withdrew the motion. Gordon Andrews made a motion to fund from Overlay or General Fund Revenue. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

24 – Hold

25 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

26 – Hold

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:30pm. Seconded by Dick Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Gordon Andrews made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:40pm. All in Favor.

### Summary

Next meeting on 4/23 will include: Further discussion of the Articles.

Paul Weckbacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dick Wright. Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.