

Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 23, 2012

Board Members in attendance: Peter Beals, Nikki Newton, Gordon Andrews, Peg Fitzgerald, Karen Fava.

Others in Attendance: Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator.

Meeting called to order at 6:58pm

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm

Mail

Charlie submitted an IT budget outlining many different scenarios for a new IT person or group. This is not a long term way to handle the change but it gives an idea of the options. It is a blueprint or starting point for the record.

Charlie shared a letter with the Committee that he received from the Con Comm. denying funding 75% of the Conservation Agent's Wages from the Wetlands account. Instead they would like to take 7,623.45 from the Wetlands account and move it to the Open Space account. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to amend the request to fund to 50% which is what they have done in the past. Total would be 5,230.00. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously. Fin Comm. will post a meeting for next Tuesday night, May 1 at 7pm in Meeting Room 1 to discuss the matter with Con Comm. Kendra will post the meeting and write a memo to Con Comm. with the new figures on it.

An email was received advising the Committee of the details of video taping meetings. If a meeting is being taped, the Chairman must announce that the meeting is being taped even if all are already aware.

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests:

Request from Charlie Seelig for \$954.00 Reserve Fund Transfer for costs associated with an auto insurance bill based on the audit. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to fund the transfer. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

General Discussions

Peg asked Sandy how the revenue from Excise was coming. Sandy indicated that the revenue was still good and the excise was up, however it is more like 50,000.00 instead of 90,000.00 as initially expected. Peg suggested that we not change the number that we use for budgeting until we have the figures from March 31 from Sandy. We have so much raise and appropriate money that is not spent yet that we can wait until next week and it won't make a difference. All Committee members were in agreement.

Peter asked if we have enough solid information yet to find out from the Assessor what it is going to mean for the tax rate. Peg said that the information would not be available until the articles are voted on. Sandy suggested giving the Assessor the info and giving her a chance to figure it. Sandy will give the info to the Assessor tomorrow and will ask

her if she would like to come in and speak with the Committee or if she would rather meet with her liaison.

Peg brought up the point that we must put a solid number in for the Silver Lake Budget instead of just a no vote with a miscellaneous figure. Peg would like to see just a 3% increase. Peter said the rational way to do it would be something that takes step increases or Union increases into account but it should be as consistent as possible with what the Committee has asked of every other department. We asked for level funding and if we tell them we could have afforded 3% it is not reinforcing our request. Peg feels that we should vote the budget if the other two towns have approved it. We are required to pay it but if it is not appropriated to begin with we will need to have another Town Meeting before it is paid to approve it. Gordon suggested we wait for the Kingston Override vote this Saturday before deciding. Peter will contact the Plympton and Kingston Fin Comm. to discuss their intent.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

26 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend 3,000.00 for new vests. There was no second to the motion. Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend the article. Seconded by Karen Fava. After discussion, the article will be held until next week for clarification.

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

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

29 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

30 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to pass over this article.

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

32 – Already voted to recommend.

33 – No sum listed. Unable to vote at this time.

34 – Hold. Peter to ask if 500.00 would be ok instead of the 750.00 being asked for.

35 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

36 – Already voted to recommend 2750.00

37 – Already voted to recommend 2750.00

38 – No sum listed. Unable to vote at this time.

39 – No sum listed. Unable to vote at this time.

40 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

41 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Karen Fava opposed. Motion passed.

42 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

43 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

44 – Hold for tax amount.

- 45 – Hold for tax amount.
- 46 – Peter Beals made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.
- 47 – Hold for Selectmen recommendation.
- 48 – Hold and read it over. Vote will take place next week.
- 49 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Gordon Andrews opposed. Motion passed.
- 50 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.
- 51 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend and fund from Overlay Surplus. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.
- 52 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to fund from Overlay Surplus. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- 53 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to pass over the article. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.
- 54 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend as printed. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Sergeants Contract

Nikki asked if the wording was in the contract for the vehicle to be used for personal use. Charlie responded that it is, however it is implied that it would be within reason and if it was abused then it would get changed in the next contract. Charlie also said that this vehicle applies only to the Operational Sergeant and not to the two new Sergeants. This vehicle will follow him as long as he is still on the department. Peg stated that as long as the contract is signed it can't be changed so the Committee's job is to either recommend it or not. The contract also states that when the Police Dept. purchases a vehicle, the first vehicle it is to purchase is the one specified in the contract. If the Committee decides to put two new cruisers on the road this year, they would actually be voting 3 new cars as the Sergeant's car would need to be purchased first and then the two new cruisers. Gordon suggested that for the next meeting Peg look into how much a cruiser costs and also what the particulars are for the car that needs to be purchased to fulfill the contract. That way the Committee can decide what it is able to fund.

Gordon Andrews made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Peter Beals. Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Richard Wright
Corresponding Clerk