

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Date: April 22, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Gauthier, Bartosiewicz, Girard, Hebert, Kupcinkas

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Tom Fox, Town Moderator, was in to go over the budget and warrant at 7:00 p.m.

Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, was in to discuss a Reserve Fund Transfer at 7:00 p.m.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Bartosiewicz to accept the minutes of April 16, 2013 as written.
Girard abstained, rest for.

Michael O'Connor: We need to consider a change to one of the articles. I was made aware of this as I was giving Tish the recommendations to go to print. The Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen have been weaning the Town off of using all of the Free Cash to stabilize the tax rate. We were not told which articles were supposed to be funded from Free Cash, so we need to change the total on Article 5. We will leave the other articles as they are, since they were voted as raised and appropriated.

Article 5-Free Cash

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to rescind the previous recommendation on Article 5.
Unanimous.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend to transfer the sum of Six Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty One Dollars and no Cents (\$626,231.00) from available certified free cash for the purposes of Article 5. Unanimous.

Reserve Fund Transfer

Brian Turbitt: Last Thursday the engine on the loader broke. The cost is about \$25,000 to fix it. This was not anticipated. The loader is a vital piece of equipment to the DPW.

Steve Hebert: How old is the machine?

Brian Turbitt: I am not sure about that.

Steve Hebert: Do we need to replace the entire engine?

Brian Turbitt: The block is cracked.

Michael O'Connor: How much would it cost for a new loader?

Brian Turbitt: It would be a couple of hundred thousand dollars.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to transfer \$25,000 from the Reserve Fund to Account Number 01-420-5800-00000-0000-530. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: My letter to the residents about the budget has very important information in it. It will take between 8-10 minutes for me to read this to the residents. I feel that I need to let them know that we were \$460,000 over the levy limit when the budgets first came in. They also should know about what has transpired between the time that budgets were submitted and what was done to get the budget into balance.

Bob Spain, Town Manager, was in at 7:15 p.m.

Michael O'Connor: The School Department has not responded to either the Town Manager's cut or the Finance Committee's cut in their budget.

Michael O'Connor: I believe that we can leave Town Meeting with an unbalanced budget.

Tom Fox: We need to find out what consequences, if any, there are to leaving with an unbalanced budget.

Brian Turbitt: I will look into it and get an answer for you.

Tom Fox: Be prepared for the School Department to get up and recommend the amount that they requested.

Michael O'Connor: The School Department voted the dollars for the article and the budget twice.

Tom Fox: Were the articles ever part of their budget?

Michael O'Connor: No they were not.

Warrant Articles

Tom Fox: Is someone going to get up and explain the article concerning the roads?

Brian Turbitt: Either Bob or Rob McNeil will be there to explain this.

Michael O'Connor: Concerning Articles 15 and 16, there is no money listed in the article and the Board of Selectmen did not have these on their priority list.

Tom Fox: Will there be a number at Town Meeting?

Michael O'Connor: The Town Manager has a ball park amount but not an exact amount.

Steve Hebert: When is the last time anyone has spoken to the School Department?

Brian Turbitt: I speak to them on a daily basis. Nothing has been said about the budget reductions, as far as I know. They know that the House Budget for State Aid came in lower than the Governor's Budget.

Tom Fox: If there is no agreement between the School Department, Finance Committee and Town Manager by Town Meeting, plan to meet early the night of Town Meeting because the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. as planned. I will not hold up the citizens of the Town because a decision has not been agreed upon.

Brian Turbitt: I just want to go on record that I do not support the borrowing on Articles 7 & 8.

Motioned by Kupcinskis, seconded by Hebert to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Unanimous.