

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes

Date: April 27, 2009

Time: 7:00p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Gauthier, Kupcinkas, Girard

Absent: Hebert, Hamilton

**Tom Fox, Town Moderator, was in at 7:00p.m.**

**Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, was in at 7:00p.m.**

**Meeting called to order at 7:17p.m.**

Michael O'Connor: Everyone decided to go to Town Meeting with this budget, knowing that the House Budget is lower than the Governor's budget, so we will have to have a Special Town Meeting. It is important that the people know that there will be a Special Town Meeting. I just wanted know if I should let them know, or if you are the one to tell them.

Tom Fox: It is not my place to give this information.

Michael O'Connor: I will let them know on the night of Town Meeting.

**The Committee went over the FY2010 Budget with the Town Moderator**

Tom Fox: Is Anna satisfied with the recommendations on her articles?

Michael O'Connor: I don't know if Bob has spoken to her.

Tom Fox: With the reduction in the Finance Director's budget, will this suffice?

Michael O'Connor: I don't know the answer to this.

Tom Fox: What issues do you anticipate in the budget?

Michael O'Connor: Someone may get up and question the cuts in the departments. If the School Department and the Municipal side hadn't agreed on a split, there would be a lot of holds on the budget. The Employee Benefits will need to be changed, but we won't know that figure before Town Meeting.

Brian Turbitt: We won't know until after the open enrollment period ends on June 8, 2009.

Michael O'Connor: If you have a savings, is it necessary to have a Special before July 1<sup>st</sup>?

Tom Fox: You can have a Special Town Meeting as long as the tax rate hasn't been set.

Brian Turbitt: If you were going to restore a position, you would have to have it before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Michael O'Connor: We need to rescind our vote on Paragraph's A and G at the end of the budget. Adjustments were made and these two have to be re-voted.

Brian Turbitt: We have reserves from Sutton. Last year the previous Finance Director lumped together the School Department and the Sewer Department. They need to be separate.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Gauthier to rescind the previous vote on Paragraph's A and G. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Gauthier to raise and appropriate \$32,135,964 for Paragraph A and to transfer \$86,644 from the Reserve for Debt Service Account to the Budget Line Item #52, Debt Service Account. Unanimous.

### **The Committee went over the FY2010 Annual Town Warrant with the Town Moderator**

#### Article 5-CIP

Michael O'Connor: The three articles for the Schools have been taken off of the table.

Tom Fox: Is 5.1 the only one on the table?

Michael O'Connor: At this time it is the only one on the table.

#### Article 10-Police Detail Account Deficit

Tom Fox: Will this be disputed?

Michael O'Connor: This has been discussed publicly. We haven't heard where anyone has a problem with this.

#### Articles 22 and 23-Transfer of funds between departments

Tom Fox: Is this to balance the budget?

Michael O'Connor: Yes, it is.

Tom Fox: Bills of a previous year need a 4/5 vote.

#### Article 25-War Memorial

Michael O'Connor: We have actual quotes on this. This is why we put in a dollar amount.

Tom Fox: I just want to let you know that zoning by-law articles need a 2/3 vote.

#### Article 50-General By-law

Tom Fox: Do you know what the maximum dollar amounts are?

Michael O'Connor: The maximum is \$300. We will need to re-vote this and have the numbers changed in our motion.

Brian Turbitt: You would need to vote both sections to reflect the dollar amounts.

Michael O'Connor: What wording would I use?

Tom Fox: I will look at the by-law and let you know.

Brian Turbitt: You can vote this at your meeting on Town Meeting evening.

#### Article 53-Rescue Squad

Michael O'Connor: I think the Board of Fire Engineers understands our reasoning on our recommendation. I am not sure if they will over turn our recommendation.

Brian Turbitt: I believe the plan is to educate the town's people of what is coming up in the future.

Article 53-Old Common Area

Michael O'Connor: I have spoken to Laurie on this and she may get up to explain this article.

Article 56-Bicentennial Committee

Tom Fox: This would require a 2/3 vote if this is money used for a Town Celebration.

Article 58-General By-laws, Chapter 40, Section 22F and Chapter 60, Section 23B

Michael O'Connor: I don't understand why we need to vote on this since it is already law.

Michael O'Connor: We have the ability to produce the Finance Recommendation books in-house for much less money than what we are paying. Next year we will look into doing these in-house.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Kupcinskis to accept the minutes of April 9, 2009 as written. Unanimous.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Girard to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Unanimous.