

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes

Date: March 30, 2006

Time: 7:00p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Hebert, Hachey, Floser, Tripaldi

Absent: Turbitt, Raymond

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

**Reserve Fund Transfer**

Finance Committee-Salaries All Others

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Floser to transfer \$500 from the Reserve Fund to the Finance Committee Salaries All Others Account for the purpose of secretarial services. Unanimous.

**BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Budget 44-Council on Aging: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$51,900 for Salaries Administrative, \$47,382 for Salaries All Others, \$31,900 for General Expenses for a total of \$131,182 for the purpose of funding this budget.

O'Connor: The problem that I have is that the Town Manager made cuts and gave us no detail. I don't know what was cut. I would like to ask the Council on Aging if they know about this. I can't find the exact figures. If the Council on Aging has a problem with these figures, they can come back to us.

Hachey: I think the Nutrition Program is brand new. I also thought the "Friends" paid for the transportation.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Budget 45-Veterans' Services: Motioned by O'Connor, Seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$14,600 for Salaries Administrative, \$150 for General Expenses, \$73,200 for Veterans' Benefits for a total of \$87,950 for the purpose of funding this budget.

O'Connor: there is no back up for the Veterans' Benefits. I would like to know why the Town Manager level funded this line item.

Hachey: The Town has to provide benefits for any veteran that comes through the door.

**Philip Buso, Veterans' Agent, was in at 7:25p.m.**

O'Connor: You requested \$78,200 for Veterans' Benefits. Are you aware that the Town Manager reduced it to \$73,200?

Philip Buso: No, I am not.

O'Connor: Do you have enough money for this year?

Philip Buso: It is going to be tight. I am not sure what is coming up. I don't know how many applications will be coming in. With the people coming back from the war, I could have a lot of applicants, or I could have very little. We pay for medical bills, dental bills, and help the veteran out as best we can. They do have to be Millbury residents. If I can only get the \$73,200 and I run low, I will have to come back for more money. I was not aware of the cuts.

**Philip Buso left at 7:35p.m.**

O'Connor: I will leave my motion as is, and if he runs low next year, he will come back for the additional money.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Budget 46-Disability Commission: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$500 for General Expenses for a total of \$500 for the purpose of funding this budget. Unanimous.

Budget 43-Human Services:

Floser: Because we have no back up on this budget, I would like to motion \$6000 for their budget and but the balance in the Reserve Fund until we can get the information.

O'Connor: I think you should save that for Tuesday's meeting with the Selectmen.

Hachey: I know that this is the District Nurse account.

Budget was put on hold.

Budget 47-Public Library: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$56,000 for Salaries Administrative, \$150,818 for Salaries All Others, \$153,000 for General Expenses for a total of \$359,818 for the purpose of funding this budget.

O'Connor: We were told that things were taken out of the budget previously and that a lot of things were not taken care of.

Hebert: Ed asked a question at the meeting with them about how much the library is used. I don't know how much it is used. We didn't get an answer on this.

Floser: The FY2006 and Mary Ann's report show a large discrepancy in the General Expenses amount.

Hachey: I can't answer why that is happening. It could be because of the "Friends".

O'Connor: I wouldn't know what to cut in this budget.

Floser: I can't see why this budget would go up by such a large percentage.

Vote on the motion: All opposed. Motion was defeated.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by O'Connor to recommend to raise and appropriate \$56,000 for Salaries Administrative, \$150,818 for Salaries All Others, \$146,000 for General Expenses for a total of \$352,818 for the purpose of funding this budget.

Unanimous.

Budget 48-Parks Commission: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$2400 for Salaries All Others, \$200 Salaries Park-time and Seasonal, \$400 General Expenses for a total of \$3000.

Floser: Where did the money go that was in the 2005 budget?

Hachey: It was moved to the DPW account.

O'Connor: The Parks Department wants to clean, seal and coat Greenwood Street and power coat Washington Street. Why was this cut? We have no one here to ask questions to. This is \$20,000.

Hachey: We should hold on this for more information.

O'Connor: I retract my motion.

Hebert: I retract my second.

Budget 49-Asa Waters Mansion: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$41,300 for Salaries Administrative, and \$16,040 General Expenses for a total of \$57,340 for the purpose of funding this budget.

O'Connor: Paul took out the \$10,000 for maintenance.

Floser: Don't they have a revolving account for their expenses?

Hachey: Yes, but they go over the amount that they are limited to.

Floser: This building is supposed to support itself. Why are we paying for this?

O'Connor: We don't even know how much revenue we have taken in on this account.

Vote on the motion: All opposed. Motion defeated.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by O'Connor to recommend to raise and appropriate \$22,340 for Salaries Administrative, -0- for General Expenses and -0- for Capital Outlay for a total of \$22,340 for the purpose of funding this budget.

Floser: The reasoning for my motion is that they have a revolving fund that will take care of the difference that the Town Manager recommended.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Budget 50-Historical Commission: Motioned by Floser, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$500 for General Expenses for a total of \$500 for the purpose of funding this budget. Unanimous.

Budget 51-Memorial Day and Veterans Day Observances: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$1000 for General Expenses for a total of \$1000 for the purpose of funding this budget. Unanimous.

Budget 52-Debt Service: Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Hebert to recommend to raise and appropriate \$1,465,838 for Long-Term Debt Principal, \$601,460 for Long-Term Debt Interest, \$20,000 for Short-Term Debt Interest for a total of \$2,087,298 for the purpose of funding this budget.

O'Connor: Where is the money from Sutton going to go? We were told that with the \$21Million project, there would be a short period of time that we would have to borrow and pay interest. I don't think it will cost us \$20,000. The rest of the budget is fixed.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Budget 55-Sewer Systems:

O'Connor: How can they get 8.9% increases when others are only getting 3%? I would like to see who is getting the big increase.

Hachey: The number of employees is broken down, but not by individual.

O'Connor: There are too many unanswered questions. We should talk to them. I would still like to get a tour of their facility.

Hachey: I would like to know why we still have the same amount of employees when we don't have a treatment plant.

#### Blackstone Valley RVTHS Budget

O'Connor: I spoke to Roger about this budget and he mentioned it to Paul. Paul asked Town Counsel for an opinion on this. We haven't even voted on it. It was a phone conversation. It was not in writing. I just wanted to see if we could agree on an amount. I propose that we have them look at the warrant article on this budget. I would like to see if this would be legal. If all of the other Towns involved with this budget approve it, then there is no negotiation on it.

Hachey: Town Meeting took a 2-1/2 override vote to increase the size of the school with a bond.

O'Connor: I am concerned about voting on the Warrant Articles with money attached until we have a balanced budget.

Hachey: Paul said that he would have a final budget for us either Friday or Monday.

O'Connor: We should wait on any other votes until then.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Tripaldi to adjourn at 9:25p.m. Unanimous.