

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

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MILLBURY, MASS.
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: January 21, 2014

Present: O'Connor, Girard, Kupcinkas, Bartosiewicz, O'Connell

Absent: Hebert

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

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Bartosiewicz to accept the minutes of November 18, 2013 as written. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: The Town Manager is presenting his budget to the Board of Selectmen on March 6, 2014. I was asked if we could move our Saturday meeting from the 8th to the 15th. Does anyone have a conflict with moving the meeting to the 15th? No one had a problem with moving the meeting to the 15th at 8:00 a.m.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Bartosiewicz to "be advised that in conformity with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D, The Town Manager respectfully requests that the Finance Committee and the Town Manager approve expenditures in excess on the appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2014 Snow and Ice Account as allowed under the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 31D". Unanimous.

Millbury School Budget Discussion

Michael O'Connor: There is an early retirement incentive offered by the School Superintendent and the School Committee. There is some savings involved with this, per the Superintendent. All of the positions will be replaced. I feel we need more information on this. In regard to the transportation account, the School Department needed to get a new company by January 2nd of this year. Next year is expected to go up by 7% or \$87,838. My question is what happened to the performance bond with the other company.

Bob Spain and Brian Turbitt were in to discuss a Reserve Fund Transfer at 7:25 p.m.

Bob Spain: We weren't going to pay for this until Town Meeting. It is back pay and allowances that were incurred during arbitration. If this person goes to court, we could end up owing interest and legal fees. I would rather pay it now than end up paying much more in the future.

Amount requested: \$62,672.60-Police Department Salaries and Wages Account

Bob Spain: My intent on the Reserve Fund was to pay for insurance increases. There were 2 insurance lines that were up more than I was told of as of July 1st. The Workman's Comp was up about \$60,000 more than what was budgeted.

Michael O'Connor: How are we going to pay for this?

Bob Spain: It is already paid for. We needed to have Worker's Comp.

Michael O'Connor: Where did the additional money come from?

Bob Spain: As long as we balance at the end of June, we will be fine.

Michael O'Connor: If you aren't going to be in trouble for doing this, then why not over expend other accounts? You are setting a precedent. There is already money in the Salary account to cover this and we can replace it at the Town Meeting. If there is an emergency, we may not have the money to pay for it.

Bob Spain: I was originally going to go to the Town Meeting to get the money. The only reason I am asking for it now, is so we will not be responsible for legal fees.

Michael O'Connor: I don't understand why this person has not been paid. The money is in the account.

Brian Turbitt: If Town Meeting says no to transferring this money, I have no other place to get it from.

Michael O'Connor: I am concerned about draining the Reserve Fund at this time. My suggestion is to wait until Town Meeting and we will transfer the money at that time if we have it available. I would like to see you pay this out of the account at this time.

Bob Spain: I don't have a problem doing that.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by O'Connell to approve the transfer of \$62,672.60 from the Reserve Fund to the Police Department Salaries and Wages All. Unanimous vote against the motion.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by O'Connell to transfer any balance, up to \$75,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Police Department Salaries and Wages All on May 7, 2014 at the Annual Town Meeting. Unanimous.

School Budget Discussion

Michael O'Connor: I will need to contact the School Superintendent to find out how much the previous performance bond was.

Jennifer O'Connell: Could we charge for transportation?

Michael O'Connor: That would be up to the School Committee. Several years ago, when David Roach was Superintendent, he stated that as long as the Town could afford it, there would be no charge for bussing. There is a Technology warrant article coming up, but we have no amount as of yet. We have been 26% above the net school spending in the past. I would like to know what next year's net school spending amount is. The teacher sequestration account spent \$4910 so far this year. Next year there is nothing budgeted. My question is did the government really cut her by \$53,746 in Title 1? I am expecting her to return the money if she didn't use it for Title 1. I would also like to know what measurement is being used to determine if the new curriculum is successful or not.

Motioned by Girard, seconded by O'Connell to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous.

Mark Deery *Michael*
David
John Barry
Albert P. Kupanshian
Jennifer O'Connell