

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: March 22, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Hamilton

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

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Bartosiewicz to accept the minutes of March 15, 2010 as written. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: Bob Spain received a letter from the lawyer concerning the Finance Committee's role in the budgets, precipitated by the School Committee. The lawyer should have read the entire Charter before making a ruling on their letter. This is their labor lawyer. Bob and I have discussed this.

Michael O'Connor handed out copies of the Charter and the by-laws concerning the Finance Committee's role in the budgets.

Michael O'Connor: Bill Borowski asked, at the meeting, for the Superintendent of Schools to submit 3 budgets with several cuts. Asking for this is an assumption that they know they need to cut significantly. They do not agree with the 60/40 split passed the FY2010 budget. They want us to document the calculations used for the deficit. The Town Manager calculates the deficit, not the Finance Committee. They also mentioned in their letter, a joint meeting. We have not been formally asked to attend this meeting. I explained to Bob that if they want to negotiate the 60/40 split, then it has to be done promptly and that we plan to start voting on April 5. Bob is the one that has to do the negotiating, not the Finance Committee.

Michael O'Connor handed out three different letters, one of which is to be voted on, to send to the School Committee. (Proposed, Rev A, and Rev B)

Motioned by Girard, seconded by Bartosiewicz to authorize Michael O'Connor, Chairman, to send the Revision B letter to the School Committee. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: I explained to Bob that with the change in percentages, he won't have to cut as much from the municipal side of the budget. I will be at the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night in case there are any budget questions. I will also be there as a representative of the Charter Review Committee, since there will be a public hearing concerning this. If there is a joint meeting to be scheduled and we are available on that night, then we will attend the meeting to listen to the discussion. We will not be there to negotiate anything. I will tell them that we have a meeting scheduled for Monday night, but that we will not have much to meet on because we are waiting for more information (updated budgets).

Steve Hebert: Are they planning on scheduling a meeting?

Michael O'Connor: I don't think Bob is scheduling one. The School Committee is meeting on Wednesday night. Hopefully they will be making some decisions that evening. The Board of Selectmen is meeting tomorrow night, and the Town Manager will discuss the budget with them. If we don't hear anything, I will e-mail everyone on Friday. We will still plan to meet on Monday unless you hear otherwise from me.

Donald Gauthier: I plan to be at the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night.

John Bartosiewicz: I will be there also.

Motioned by Girard, seconded by Kupcinkas to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous.