

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Date: March 23, 2009

Time: 7:00p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Hamilton, Gauthier, Kupcinskis, Hebert, Girard

Absent: None

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

Motioned by Kupcinskis, seconded by Hamilton to accept the minutes of March 16, 2009 as written. Unanimous.

Memo received from the Board of Selectmen concerning the Financial Management Task Force appointees.

Michael O'Connor: The Board of Selectmen is asking for a representative from the Finance Committee to serve on this task force. I told Bob that I would bring it before the Finance Committee and let you decide if you want to serve.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Hebert to approve an invoice for WB Mason for Name Plates; to come out of the other expenses account number 01-131-5780-0000. Unanimous.

A draft of the Warrant, dated 3/2/0/09, was received

Fire Chief, Matt Belsito, was in to discuss Warrant Article 52, a new Rescue Truck, at 7:00p.m.

Michael O'Connor: I spoke to Bob about this article. I asked him where the original article came from. He said he helped put it together. I asked Brian when we would start dropping large amounts of debt. He said that in 2011, it would come down. All of the long-term debt that I have seen in the past has been for buildings, never vehicles. If we could do this with excluded debt, it would not affect the budgets. We need to realize that if this is approved, it is a 5- year commitment. If we have a tougher year next year and it is not an excluded debt, it may cause lay offs.

Matt Belsito: We have been trying to get this truck for over seven years. This is why I made sure you had all the back up documents that you need to support the truck. If it passes, we would not have to start paying until 2011.

Michael O'Connor: I am still working on excluded debt with the Town Manager. We will be dealing with this either next week or the following week. We plan to start voting the non-money warrant articles this evening. I will have better answers for the

Committee next week. If I get any additional information before Monday, I will let you know.

Matt Belsito left at 7:20p.m.

Michael O'Connor: Articles 1, 2, and 3 are not articles that we vote on. Article 4 is the budget, which we should be able to start voting next week.

Warrant Article Recommendations

Article 5-CIP Program

Michael O'Connor: I think we should hold on this article. Not all of the information has been received.

Article 6-Personal Property Damage

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Hamilton to recommend that \$500.00 be raised and appropriated in support of Article 6. Unanimous.

Article 7-Free Cash

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$1,579,517.39 be transferred from available Certified Free Cash to reduce or stabilize the Fiscal Year 2010 Tax Rate in support of Article 7. Unanimous.

Article 8-Reserve for Debt Service

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$9,032.61 be transferred from available Certified Free Cash to account number 01-030-3120-0000 Reserve for Debt Service in support of Article 8. Unanimous.

Article 9-Asa Waters Mansion-DEP soil and water testing

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$55,000 be raised and appropriated for required soil and water testing and monitoring, environmental and engineering assessments, related reporting required by the state DEP and any other related actions to abate any environmental contaminations located on the Asa Waters Mansion Property, in support of Article 9.

Michael O'Connor: We need to check to see what the dollar amount spent is, so far. I would also like to know when this is going to be paid off.

Steve Hebert: We are spending this and there are people in Town that are being laid off. There is money in their account that could be used for this.

Donald Gauthier: How much money do they have in their fund?

Michael O'Connor: There is over \$100,000. The Town Manager is aware of this. He is cutting positions, while this is on the Warrant to be paid.

Donald Gauthier: I would like to hold on this article and wait to see what Bob has to say.

Daniel Girard: What would happen if we voted against this?

Michael O'Connor: I don't know if the DEP would come in and do it and then bill us.

Hebert retracted his motion. Kupcinkas retracted his second.

Donald Gauthier: I asked why the Town Manager didn't cut the Director's hours and he said that the Board of Selectmen said not to.

Motioned by Hamilton, seconded by Gauthier to authorize Michael O'Connor to send a letter to the Town Manager asking if he could approach the Asa Waters Task Force to see if they would be willing to put up the \$55,000 to pay this bill. Unanimous.

Article 10-Police Detail Account

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$60,000 be raised and appropriated in support of Article 10. Unanimous.

Article 11-Revolving Account-BOH

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Board of Health to be the depository for user fees for the continuing purchase of composting bins and shall be expended only in connection with carrying out this program and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$5,000 in support of Article 11. Unanimous.

Article 12-Revolving Account-BOH

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Board of Health for fees derived from plan review, inspections and administrative charges for services related to review and approval of on-site septic systems and housing quality inspections and that a maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$25,000 in support of Article 12. Unanimous.

Article 13-Revolving Account-Board of Appeals

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Board of Appeals for filing fees and other fees for applications for variances and permits as allowed by law under the jurisdiction of the Board of Appeals and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$20,000 in support of Article 13. Unanimous.

Article 14-Revolving Account-Board of Appeals

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Board of Appeals to be the depository for Comprehensive Permit application, filing and review fees and to fund expenses associated with any part-time employee of the Board of Appeals and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$30,000 in support of Article 14. Unanimous.

Article 15-Revolving Account DPW

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Hamilton to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the DPW for the fees and charges collected for the disposal of hazardous and/or specially handled solid wastes such as heavy metals and large appliances accepted for disposal at the Transfer Station and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$10,000 in support of Article 15. Unanimous.

Article 16-Revolving Account-Sealer of Weights and Measures

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Sealer of Weights and Measures to be the depository for fees received for sealing of weights and measures and for paying the expenses and services of the Sealer of Weights and Measures and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$10,000 in support of Article 16. Unanimous.

Article 17-Revolving Account-Police Department

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Police Department to be the depository for fees received for Licenses to Carry Fire Arms and Firearms Identification Cards and to make payments due to the Firearms Record Bureau of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for their portion of the receipts and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$30,000 in support of Article 17. Unanimous.

Article 18-Revolving Account-Asa Waters Mansion

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Hebert to recommend that a Revolving Account be established for the Asa Waters Mansion to be the depository for rental deposits and other fees, donations and charges, for use of the Asa Waters Mansion and to fund expenses associated with the use and operations of the Asa Waters Mansion, including wages for part-time employees and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$90,000 in support of Article 18.

Donald Gauthier: Until we get an answer about the \$55,000, I will vote no on this article.

Michael O'Connor: We might need to adjust the \$90,000 if the \$55,000 is allowed.

Daniel Girard: What if we voted no on this?

Michael O'Connor: They would drum up support and have an extra 50 people at Town Meeting to vote against our recommendation.

Kupcinkas retracted his motion. Hebert retracted his second.

This Article is on hold until next week.

Article 19-Revolving Account-Millbury Housing Partnership

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that a Revolving Account for the Housing Partnership be established to be the depository of funds received from the sale of affordable homes and for the purpose of paying the administrative, legal, planning, engineering and related expenses of the Millbury Housing Partnership's affordable housing programs and that the maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$10,000 in support of Article 19. Unanimous.

Article 20-Revolving Account-Earth Removal Board

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that a Revolving Account for the Earth Removal Board be established to be the depository for funds received for application fees, as well as plan reviews, inspections and administrative charges for services related to the administration of the Earth Removal Bylaw, Chapter 14, Section 21 of the General Bylaws and to fund the administrative expenses of the Earth Removal Board as well as planning, inspection and engineering expenses related to the Removal Permit application and permit granting process and that a maximum amount to be expended from the fund in Fiscal 2010 be \$25,000 in support of Article 20.

Donald Gauthier: When did this board start?

Michael O'Connor: It was established a couple of years ago. This is to control the Earth Removal activity.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 21-Elder Community Services

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that \$20,000 be raised and appropriated in support of Article 21. Unanimous.

Article 22-Transfers between departments FY2009

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend to transfer from 02-141-5200-0810, the sum of \$21,600.00 and from 02-135-5200-0724, the sum of \$4,369.50, to 02-155-5200-0939, the sum of \$2,750.00, to 02-210-5850-0940, the sum of 8,000.00, to 02-200-5850-0941, the sum of 8,000.00, to 02-200-5730-0942, the sum of \$4,100.00, to 02-945-5740-0943, the sum of \$3,000.00, to 02-123-5200-0944, the sum of \$119.50 in support of Article 22. Unanimous.

Article 23-Transfers between departments FY2009

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend to transfer from 02-135-5200-0724, the sum of \$6,310.00, from 02-141-5200-0810, the sum of \$21,600.00, from 01-495-5780-0000, the sum of \$20,000.00, from 01-162-5116-0000, the sum of \$4,000.00, from 01-210-5130-0000, the sum of \$10,000, from 01-123-5130-0000, the sum of \$2,440.00, from 01-410-5115-0000, the sum of \$20,000.00 to 01-543-5780-0000, the sum of \$45,000.00, to 01-155-5200-0000, the sum of \$4,350.00, to 01-913-5170-0000, the sum of \$35,000.00 in support of Article 23. Unanimous.

Article 24-Medicaid Reimbursement

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$90,000.00 be raised and appropriated in support of Article 24. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: I would like to hold on Articles 25 and 26 until I get more information. Bob has a figure of \$1800.00 and Joe had a quote with his article of about \$1700.00.

Donald Gauthier: This may end up being pulled because of fiscal constraints.

Article 27-Citizen Petition-Reduction of work force in Finance Director's office

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that action on Article 27 be indefinitely postponed.

Michael O'Connor: I don't think a citizen's petition should decide on positions in the town. This is under the Town Manager. He is responsible for putting people in the positions that they are needed in.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 28-Citizen Petition-Reduction of work force in the Building Inspector's office

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that action on Article 28 be indefinitely postponed. Unanimous.

Article 29-Citizen Petition-Reduction of work force of the Town Planner

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Hebert to recommend that action on Article 29 be indefinitely postponed. Unanimous.

Article 30-Citizen Petition-Group Health Insurance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that action on Article 30 be indefinitely postponed.

Michael O'Connor: This article takes away the Town's portion of medical insurance from everyone in Town.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 31-Zoning By-law-Administration and Procedures, Section 12.43

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Girard to recommend that Article 31 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 32-Zoning By-law-District Regulations, Section 21

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Hamilton to recommend that Article 32 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 33-Zoning By-law-General Regulations, Section 33

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 33 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 34-Zoning By-law-Special Regulations, Section 41

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 34 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 35-Zoning By-law-Administration and Procedure, Section 14.11

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 35 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 36-Zoning By-law-Special Regulations; Insert Section 50

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 36 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 37-Zoning By-law-General Regulations; deleting Section 32.9

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 37 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 38-Zoning By-law-General Regulations; adding Section 32.9

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 38 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 39-Zoning By-law-Definitions

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 39 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 40-Zoning By-law-Definitions

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 40 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 41-Zoning By-law-Bramanville Village District

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 41 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 42-Zoning By-law-District Regulations; Section 21.1

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 42 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 43-Zoning By-law-District Regulations; add Section 24

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 43 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 44-Zoning By-law-Administration and Procedure; Section 12.4

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 44 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 45-Zoning By-law-General Regulations; Section 34.3

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 45 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 46-Zoning By-law-General Regulations; Section 34.6

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 46 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 47-Zoning By-law-General Regulations; Section 34.6

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 47 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 48-Zoning By-law-Special Regulations; Section 42

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 48 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 49-Zoning By-law-Special Regulations: delete Section 45

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 49 be deferred to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

Article 50-General By-law; Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-1

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Gauthier to recommend that Article 50 be accepted as written.

Donald Gauthier: We cannot impose fines that are steeper than the State.

Michael O'Connor: If we agree on it, the Attorney General makes the next decision. This is what Bob should have already checked on.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 51-General By-laws Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2-6

Michael O'Connor: I am not sure why this article is in here.

Donald Gauthier: The Federal Government is looking into doing this.

Michael O'Connor: Why don't we hold off on this until next week.

Article 52-New Rescue Squad

Michael O'Connor: I asked Bob about this the other day. Bob said he helped write this article. He wouldn't agree to cut jobs if in FY2011, we were still in fiscal constraints and we needed to pay this yearly amount. If we could get the Town Meeting to vote a debt exclusion, this would not affect the budget or the levy limit. Our explanation could be that we have some long-term debts closing in 2011. Would the Finance Committee agree to proceed to asking for a debt exclusion?

Steve Hebert: I would agree with that.

Donald Gauthier: Why don't we see what Bob comes up with.

Article 53-Old Common Road

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 53 be deferred to the Conservation Commission. Unanimous.

Article 54-Sewer Retained Earnings

Michael O'Connor: I spoke to Brian about this. One of their accounts has an excess amount in it. They built it up too fast. From what I understand \$200,000 is going to be moved from one account to another to hold the user rate.

Article 56-Bicentennial Committee

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Hamilton to recommend that action on Article 56 be indefinitely postponed.

Michael O'Connor: I just feel that it is not the time for this article. We are cutting hours in departments when they know that they have \$5,000 sitting in an account.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: There is a School Committee meeting on Wednesday evening. This is when they are supposed to be deciding on their reductions to their budget and their warrant articles. They also haven't responded to the 60/40 cut.

Steve Hebert: Will Bob be at the meeting?

Michael O'Connor: No, he will not.

Donald Gauthier: Bob met with the unions concerning their increases and the School Department stated that they were discussing furloughs.

Michael O'Connor: If they cut about \$500,000 in addition to their State Aid, that would agree with the Town Manager's request.

Donald Gauthier: They are so far over the State Mandated funding. The \$971,000 should be cut.

Steve Hebert: They need to close the gap.

Michael O'Connor: I made a call into Tom Fox concerning the School budget. I haven't heard back from him yet. We have two weeks to vote everything and get it out to print. If the School Department doesn't agree with the number, I am going to ask what their goal was in the budget. I will tell them that if they want to set up a joint meeting with the Select board, the Finance Committee will try to attend. Next Monday, we will start voting the budgets. Brian will be in on April 6th to make sure our numbers come out.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Hebert to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Unanimous.