

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Date: April 19, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Gauthier to accept the minutes of March 14, 2011 as written. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: We received a copy of the Warrant. There are 28 articles. There are no citizen's petitions. Most of the articles are standard. There is a small change in the figures for the budget after receiving the House Budget. It is slightly better than the Governor's numbers. The Senate re-affirmed the Chapter 70 number and the Unrestricted General Government numbers. The Town Manager said that he does not plan to change his budget, even with the changes in the House figures. I spoke to the Town Manager today and he hasn't gotten together with the School Committee or the School Superintendent concerning the 60/40 split. I told him we were going to start voting the budget on Monday and that we would need any changes before Monday.

Michael O'Connor went over the Warrant

Article 3-Prior Year Bills

Article 4-The Budget

Article 5-Free Cash

Article 6-CIP and Projects

Article 7-Asa Waters Oil Cleanup

Article 8-Landfill Testing

Article 9-Medicaid Reimbursement

Article 10-Personal Property Damage

Article 11-Sewer Enterprise transfer to Sewer Stabilization

Article 12-Sewer Enterprise transfer to Sewer Capital Projects

Article 13-Revolving Fund Article

Article 14-Additional Liquor License

Article 15-Aerial Scope

Michael O'Connor: If this passes the ballot, we will give our recommendation with the figure at the Town Meeting.

Article 16-Disability for Fire Fighters

Article 17-Change from Capital Improvement Planning Committee to Financial Management Planning Committee

Article 18-Brierly Pond Dam Repairs

Michael O'Connor: I don't know much about this. The Town Manager says we cannot afford to do this. I would like to see if you want me to contact the Ponds and Lakes Commission to come in and explain this article and the cost.

Article 19-Elder Affairs Program

Article 20-Energy Advisory Committee

Michael O'Connor: There are grants available right now. In FY2013 this will automatically be enforced.

Article 21-Braney Road Acceptance

Article 22-Cronin Brook Acceptance

Article 23-Diana Hill Drive Acceptance

Article 24-Taft Circle Acceptance

Article 25-Jessica J Drive Acceptance

Article 26-Brian Circle Acceptance

Article 27-Flood Plain District Requirements

Michael O'Connor: I received an e-mail from Bob this afternoon forwarding an e-mail from the Planning Director of Sutton concerning this.

Article 28-Acceptance of change in hours for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and certain holidays.

Warrant Article Recommendations

Article 3-Prior Year Bills

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 3 be accepted as written. Unanimous.

Article 5-Free Cash

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 5 be accepted as written.

Donald Gauthier: I thought he was only going to use \$525,000 out of the account.

Michael O'Connor: This is the figure he gave me.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 6.1-CIP-Doors for the School Department

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$135,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.1.

Donald Gauthier: I thought the doors came to \$160,000.

Michael O'Connor: The Town Manager put this figure in.

Vote on the motion: Unanimous.

Article 6.2-CIP-Roof Repairs to Highway Barn

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$115,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.2. Unanimous.

Article 6.3-Road Repairs and ADA repairs to sidewalks

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$80,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.3. Unanimous.

Article 6.4-Removal and Replacement of Town's Gas/Diesel Storage Tanks

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$70,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.4. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: I believe that they may end up going with above ground tanks rather than underground.

Donald Gauthier: Is this a firm figure?

Michael O'Connor: This is the figure that Bob gave to me.

Article 6.5-CIP-Lawn Mower/Tractor for the Cemetery

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$9,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.5. Unanimous.

Article 6.6-Jaws of Life

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$12,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.6. Unanimous.

Article 6.7-Replace Pump in Forestry Truck

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$15,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 6.7. Unanimous.

Article 7-Asa Waters Mansion Soil Testing

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$50,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 7.

Donald Gauthier: I still have a problem with the Town paying for this. This has been going on for years.

Steve Hebert: I would like to know how much we have already spent on this project.

Michael O'Connor: I think it is around \$200,000 so far.

Vote on the motion: Gauthier opposed, rest for.

Article 8-Soil Testing at the Landfill

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$30,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 8. Unanimous.

Article 9-Medicaid Reimbursement

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$96,578 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 9. Unanimous.

Article 10-Property Damage and Personal Injury Claims

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that \$500 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 10. Unanimous.

Article 11-Transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Sewer Stabilization Fund

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from the Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise fund to the Sewer Enterprise Stabilization Fund for the purposes of Article 11. Unanimous.

Article 12-Transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Sewer Capital Projects Fund

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend the sum of \$300,000 be appropriated from the Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Sewer Capital Projects Fund for the purposes of Article 12. Unanimous.

Article 13-Revolving Funds

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 13 be accepted as written.

Donald Gauthier: I still believe that these amounts are too high.

Michael O'Connor: These are the same amounts as last year.

Steven Hebert: I still have a problem with the \$90,000 for the Asa Waters Account.

Michael O'Connor: They had over \$90,000 in their account at one point. The Town Manager is responsible for this number. They can only spend up to what they take in.

Daniel Girard: I think they should be self-sufficient.

Michael O'Connor: That is up to the Board of Selectmen to take a position on this. The Asa Waters Task Force went on record with the Town that if they were given a director, they would become self-sufficient within a couple of years. It hasn't occurred yet.

Vote on the motion: Gauthier opposed, rest for.

Article 14-Additional Liquor License

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to recommend that Article 14 be accepted as written. Unanimous.

Article 15-Aerial Platform Fire Apparatus

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to make a recommendation on this article at Town Meeting. Unanimous.

Article 16-Disability for Fire Fighters

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to recommend that Article 16 be accepted as written. Unanimous.

Article 17-Change name from Capital Improvement Planning Committee to Financial Management Planning Committee

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 17 to the Town Manager for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 18-Brierly Pond Dam Repair

Michael O'Connor: Because there is money involved with this article, we will need to make a recommendation. The Ponds and Lakes Commission put this on the Warrant. I can give the Commission a call and have them come in to our next meeting to explain this and to hopefully get a dollar amount.

Article 19-Elder Community Services Program

Michael O'Connor: Last year Bob reduced this amount and it wasn't enough. It is back at the original amount.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to recommend that \$20,000 be raised and appropriated for the purposes of Article 19. Unanimous.

Article 20-Stretch Energy Code

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 20 to the Energy Advisory Committee for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 21-Braney Road Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 21 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 22-Cronin Brook Way Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 22 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 23-Diana Hill Drive Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 23 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 24-Taft Circle Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 24 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 25-Jessica J Drive Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 25 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 26-Brian Circle Acceptance

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 26 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 27-Flood Plain District Requirements

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to defer Article 27 to the Planning Board for the recommendation. Unanimous.

Article 28- Acceptance of change in hours for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and certain holidays.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to recommend that Article 28 be accepted as written. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: As far as the budget, we need to let the people know that we are at the levy limit. The Health Insurance has a big impact on it. The State Aid has gone down significantly in the past three years. If it comes back up, we could probably see the budgets go up. I will have a copy of the Warrant with the recommendations for our next meeting. I will have a first draft of our Finance Committee letter for your review. I hope that the School Committee/ Superintendent meet with the Town Manager concerning the Town/School split. We go to the publisher on May 20th. We will start voting the budget on Monday. We are supposed to have any changes in the budget from Bob by Monday and we should have the wording from Brian for the end of the budget at that time too. I am still working on the head count analysis. From what I have so far, the Police Department peaked in 2009 with 20 people. They now have 18. The Highway Department had 11 in 2008 and now has 10.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Kupcinskaskas to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Unanimous.