

Finance Committee Meeting

October 26, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Chris Smith, Chairman
Craig Schultze, Vice Chairman
Peter Jurmain
Rick Manburg
Rich Molloy
Jim Smith
Susan Vecchi
Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator
Charles Vecchi, Board of Selectmen
Dave Baker, School Committee

Chris Smith called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

Article # 13 Review – School Department Special Education Vehicles:

Dave Baker provided an update on the Special Education vehicles; received a quote from Plymouth County Commission. The contract only applies to 8 passenger vans. These are V8, with 4.6L engine. Specifications were provided. Quote is for (2) vehicles, \$21,764.80 each, for a total of \$43,529.60. Chris Smith questioned whether the intention was to purchase immediately; D. Baker responded affirmative. C. Smith questioned why the price increase was incurred; D. Baker responded that the previous contract had expired. The terms of the new contract are not yet locked down, but a 5% increase in price is expected. If the 5% increase was not incurred, then the extra cash would be returned to free cash. Susan Vecchi questioned what would happen in the event that the price increased. D. Baker responded that the money would need to be found within the existing budget. Craig Schultze questioned how the money would need to be appropriated, in the event of any cash remaining after purchase. This would become 'unspent monies from article 13', and would need to be voted at town meeting. C. Schultze questioned whether the school was interested in purchasing the extended warranty. D. Baker responded that the decision was made to not pursue this path. School has not had the luxury, previously, of having new vehicles in the fleet. Peter Jurmain asked, assuming that the warrant article is passed, that this be used as a test case as to whether the extended warranty would be a fiscally sound option. Jim Smith questioned whether the extended warranty was from the vendor, or from 3rd party. D. Baker responded that it would be a 3rd party warranty. S. Vecchi made a motion to reconsider article 13; P. Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0, motion carries.

S. Vecchi made a motion to approve articles 13, in the amount of \$44,000; C. Schultze seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Smith suggested that meetings during November and December could be utilized to provide updates on the school budget, through end of second quarter. D. Baker agreed.

Articles # 3 and 4 Review – Zoning Bylaw Change:

Charles Aspinwall provided an update on articles 3 and 4. The bylaw proposed a 50% commercial, 50% residential mix. This would require a change to the HUD policy. Representative Barney Frank is currently investigating this. It would be necessary to change the HUD policy first. As a result, the Planning Board and Board of Selectman have recommended dismissal of these articles.

P. Jurmain made a motion to reconsider articles 3 and 4 due to the change in verbiage. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

P. Jurmain made a motion to dismiss articles 3 and 4. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

Articles 7 – Water System Improvements:

C. Aspinwall provided an update on water system improvements. There is currently \$248,000 in surplus; he recommends maintaining at least \$50,000 in surplus to account for any fluctuations during the fiscal year. Debt is going to decrease, FY2012 to FY2013. There will be an increase in sewer assessment due to Charles River Sewer District policy, effective FY2013, at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

The recommended improvements include installing a generator at well 3, adding disinfection improvements at well 3, and disinfection improvements at well 4. A pipe loop will be needed in order to mitigate complaints of taste/order due to chlorination. Without pipe loop, systems would require ~ 4X additional chlorine. C. Aspinwall recommended proposing the pipe loop improvements during the May town meeting.

P. Jurmain questioned whether additional work should be anticipated at other wells. C. Aspinwall confirmed that the disinfection capability is already present at wells 1, 2, 5 and 6. These wells, however, will need the pipe loop improvements, as well.

C. Smith made a motion to approve articles 7 in the amount of \$200,000 for water system improvements, to come from Water Surplus. P. Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

Article 10 – Police Feasibility Study:

No update

Article 24 – Personnel Plan:

C. Aspinwall presented updates to the personnel plan. The Finance Committee needs to make a recommendation on Schedules A, B, and C; there is no monetary impact. Proposed changes to Schedules A, B, C and D have been recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

S. Vecchi made a motion to reconsider article 24. P. Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

P. Jurmain made a motion to recommend approval of Schedules A, B and C within article 24. J. Smith seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

Funding Sources:

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 1 from free cash and water surplus. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 5 from borrowing. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 6 from sewer fund. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 7 from water fund. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 8 from water/sewer/overlay surplus. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 9 from new growth. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 12 from free cash and new growth. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 13 from free cash and overlay surplus. R. Manburg seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 16 from CPA funds. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 20 from overlay surplus. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 21 from tax rate reserve. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 22 from free cash. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 23 from free cash. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 25 from new growth. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 26 from new growth, free cash, and sewer surplus. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Schultze made a motion to fund article 28 from free cash. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

C. Smith informed the committee that the Police Department has received a grant for dispatch training, for ~ \$30,000. This will offset costs. Dispatch training is now mandatory. Acting Chief Dwyer had pursued this opportunity.

S. Vecchi made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 19, 2011 meeting as written. P. Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

Next meeting will be Pre-Town meeting on 11/2/2011. This is an open public hearing. It will be held in Veterans Memorial Building room 229 at 7:30 PM.

Monday, November 7th is the Town Meeting.

P. Jurmain made a motion to adjourn. S. Vecchi seconded. Vote: 7/0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Molloy