

Finance Committee Minutes
Room 5
January 26, 2011

Present: Mr. Kelliher, Ms. Hurlbut Mr. Wolpin, Mr. Pulver, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Mastascusa, & Mr. Veneziano (7:40),

Absent: Mr. Blanchette

Guests: Mr. Tassone, Finance Director

Mr. Kelliher, Chairman, brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Finance's Director's Report

Mr. Tassone advised members that the estimated state budget overall was not as bad as we thought it might be. The Quinn bill cost, which the town will need to pick up, will cost about \$385,000. Mr. Kirby asked how we are going to afford the Quinn cost. Some of this cost will be covered by funds in the overlay reserve fund and other cost will be covered through the overtime budget. The cost of the Quinn bill will increase next years cost by approximately \$250,000. There will be a special Town Meeting March 14th to move \$300,000 to the overlay.

Mr. Tassone mentioned that Budget presentations by the big three departments are scheduled for March 5th. Budget books are scheduled to be printed February 16th.

Capital Improvement budgets were discussed. Mr. Tassone would like to see revised guidelines. Mr. Kelliher responded that the document for capital improvements was still accurate but is currently under revision. As mentioned at an earlier meeting it is important that FinCom has an opportunity to review capital budgets before recommending - not on the night of the budget. Without time to deliberate FinCom would be not be in a position to make a recommendation and, as we understand the rules, an article could not be acted on ("no recommendation" vs "not recommended") without a FinCom recommendation.

Committee Reports

Mr. Kelliher reported that the Secondary School Committee has hired an Owner's Property Manager. The next step will be to hire an architect. Currently the High School is the only study approved.

Capital Improvement Policy: Mr. Kelliher offered to work with Mr. Mastascusa on this project.

Fees and Receipts: Mr. Johnson reported that he has received current information from some departments (Building Codes, Health Department and Town Clerk) as to fees that they charge. The School fees have not yet been included. Mr. Kirby suggested that the Recreation fees should also be included.

Operating Budget: Mr. Wolpin reported that the summary sheets will include appropriate detail between Town and School department budgets. Additionally, there will be a summary of Grant monies.

Assessing and Collection: Mr. Pulver gave an update on the progress.

Charter Review: Mr. Kelliher reported that the Town Charter review is in process. The committee includes Mr. Kelliher, Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Prisco and others.

Our next meeting will be February 23. Members should pick up their budget books from the Town Hall prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Approved _____ Dated _____