



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

7:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present: Chairman, Elaine Kelly
Rick Nieber
Tony Poteete
Janice Hight
Dan McInnis

Absent: Bob D'Amico

Also present: John Coderre, Town Administrator
Richard Smith, Financial Planning Member
Mark Leahy, Police Chief
Kathy Joubert, Town Planner
John Campbell, Community Preservation Committee Chair

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of March 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes

D. McInnis moved approval of the Meeting Minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting; R. Nieber seconded; approved unanimously.

Community Preservation Committee Presentation – Kathy Joubert & John Campbell

John Campbell reviewed the memo to the Chair dated March 20, 2013, previously distributed to the Committee, in which they outlined each of the CPC articles and the cost involved. He indicated a public hearing was held on January 20, 2013 and February 25, 2013 and the CPC voted to recommend the projects to be funded at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

The following projects are recommended by the CPC for funding in FY2014:

Open Space/Recreation Category

- **\$15,000 - Viewing Deck Renovation at Memorial Field – Phase I** submitted by the Northborough Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **\$15,000 - Assabet Park Shading Project** submitted by the Northborough Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **\$150,000 - Conservation Fund** submitted by the Open Space Committee.

- **\$16,000 - Bartlett Pond Weed Management** submitted by the Conservation Commission.
- **\$7000 - Hiking Trail Preservation** submitted by the Trails Committee.
- **\$59,230 – Debt service** on Green Street land purchase.

Historic Category

- **\$4000 - Historical Markers** submitted by the Historical Commission.
- **\$50,000 - Historical Resources Preservation Fund** submitted by the Historical Commission.
- **\$30,000 - Preservation and Storage of Town Records** by the Town Clerk and Historical Commission.

Housing Category

- **\$52,000 - Redevelopment of Old Northborough Senior Center** submitted by the Northborough Affordable Housing Corporation.

Police Department Budget Presentation – Mark Leahy

The Police Chief distributed a handout to the Committee and reviewed the Police budget.

Overall, the FY2014 Police Department Budget is increasing \$24,988, or 1%. Personnel wage adjustments for non-union personnel, Patrol Officers, Police Sergeants and Dispatchers are not reflected in these figures pending contract settlements for FY2014. During FY2014 the hiring of a new Patrol Officer was authorized in order to backfill the absence left by an officer that was injured on duty. The budget as presented still carries the cost of the injured officer’s salary, which is required by law, as well as the new hire. The cost of a new hire was budgeted in FY2014 in order to get the Department back to its authorized strength of 20 sworn Officers. In addition, there is \$7,386 in the contractual services line for a new Town-wide emergency notification system that will replace the now defunct Reverse 911 system previously run by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

Overview of General Government Budget – John Coderre

Mr. Coderre reviewed the General Government Budget with the Committee. Overall, the General Town budget (non-school) is up 4.5%. The budget is a level service fiscal plan. The main changes include the addition of 1 police officer, 1 new Fire Department position, increased Veteran’s Agent costs associated with the new District, and \$46,500 more to snow and ice. On a positive note, Health Insurance premiums are projected to increase just 1%. Debt service is also down by \$177,339 due mainly to the Town’s policy of using Free Cash to fund smaller pay-as-you-go capital. Lastly, all wage increases have been budgeted centrally in the Personnel Board account pending collective bargaining settlements, including non-union personnel.

Any other business to come before the Committee

None.

Next Meeting Dates -

Monday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

[Tuesday, March 26th at 4:00 p.m. - Optional Site Tour of DPW Highway Garage with Financial Planning Committee.]

Thursday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room with the Finance Director; Review and Voter on ATM articles.

Adjournment

9:15 p.m. – J. Hight moved to adjourn; R. Nieber seconded, approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Coderre

Documents used during meeting:

1. March 21, 2013 Meeting Agenda
2. March 25, 2013 Meeting Agenda
3. March 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. Community Preservation Committee Presentation
5. Police Presentation
6. Code Red Area Clients Map
7. Fire Chief's Follow-up Memo to Committee

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