

**Stow Finance Committee  
Minutes of February 10, 2009 meeting**

Present: Charlie Kern, Chairman, David Walrath, Vice Chairman, James Salvie, Ann Deluty, Chris Sarno.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike McLaughlin attended the meeting and described his reasons for requesting a transfer from the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$15,000. Essentially, the wage item for call firefighters was underfunded in the fiscal 2009 budget. The present figure, approximately \$30,000, was enough to cover scheduled coverage for call firefighters. However, it was not enough to cover call firefighter shifts covering for full time firefighters on holidays, sick days, etc. Also, the captain has been on sick leave for much of fiscal 2009, requiring additional call firefighter coverage. The Chief transferred approximately half of the salary for the administrative assistant/Firefighter EMT to this line item. However, he is still about \$15,000 short.

The Committee asked questions and inquired whether this problem has been corrected in the proposed fiscal 2010 budget (it has). On a motion by Dave Walrath, seconded by Jim Salvie, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the transfer.

**VOTED:** To transfer \$15,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department wage line item.

The Fire Chief reviewed his fiscal 2010 budget with the committee. The committee asked questions about capital item requests, specifically the request for a new ambulance. It was noted that the existing ambulance is approximately 10 years old with approximately 52,000 miles. There is a market for used ambulances, primarily to municipalities that already have an ambulance and need another for non-emergency situations. The committee inquired into the revenue received from ambulance runs, approximately \$141,000 in 2008 compared to \$95,000 in 2004. The number of runs is increasing. In the operating budget, the increase in

overtime reflects a shift of that amount from call firefighter to overtime. The committee thanked the chief for his time.

#### Snow and Ice

After discussion, on a motion by Dave Walrath, seconded by Jim Salvie, the committee voted unanimously to approve deficit spending for the snow and ice account.

**VOTED:** to approve deficit spending for the snow and ice account.

#### Annual report

The committee reviewed Charlie Kern's draft of the finance committee's annual report. The draft met with general acclaim and the committee expressed its thanks to Mr. Kern.

#### Liaison Reports

Dave Walrath reported on affordable housing proposals being considered by the Community Preservation Committee. Charlie Kern reported on comments received at the Master Plan committee. Jim Salvie reported on the status of the school committee's budget deliberations.

On a motion by Dave Walrath, seconded by Jim Salvie, the committee adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Salvie