

**Minutes
Finance Committee
February 12, 2013
Final**

Call to Order

Chairman Peter McManus called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were,
Members: Bruce Walbridge, Christopher Sarno and Ann Deluty
Associate: Richard Eckel
Absent: Richard Rollins

Budget Reviews

7:30 – Highway Department

Mike explained that last year they spent \$100k on capital projects.

This year they are asking for \$163k

1. \$98k is to replace a one ton truck with a low profile multi-purpose truck that has 2 different interchangeable bodies, enabling them to easily change the trucks function. They are not adding a new truck.
2. \$65k to move the existing modular classroom from the Pompo School to the Highway garage to be utilized for office space. To include; Construction cost to connect the modular to the Highway Building, construction of restroom facility within the modular, turning the existing office into an employee locker room and bunk room, all electrical, plumbing and septic associate with the connection of the buildings, and purchase of used furnishings.

This past storm cost \$32k for clean-up for this one storm: i.e., driver labor included per-diem employee who will be stepping down and replaced with a new employee.

Mike exited at 7:55pm

8:00 – Police Department

Rachel and members discussed the professional development for officers training, liabilities down the line, capital projects and the Emergency Notice System and the costs. They will continue to replace one vehicle per year.

The new explorer fits all of the necessary equipment. The fuel cost is a 1 mile per gallon difference between the Taurus and the previous explorer.

Rachel exited at 8:30pm

8:30 – Nashoba Regional School District

Rick Rollins recused himself from the discussion regarding Special Education
Christopher Sarno recused himself from the discussion of Nashoba Regional School District.

Operating Budget- George explained:

- There is a rise of 3.88% in the budget.
- The cost is driven by the salaries.
- There are increases in the Facilities Department.
- Small repairs at the high school.
- Net six positions being added
 1. Special Ed at Hale
 2. Sports at Sawyer School
 3. Special Ed at Nashoba
 4. English in the High School
 5. Technology Department addition

Payroll has increased 4% step increase plus 1.5% COLA increase \$36mil fixed assessment

Bolton had 67 students missed in the assessment. They are now required to assess on the numbers they gave rather than the actual count.

Stow's assessment is 5.09; the budget is up 3.88%)

When the students are added back into Bolton's figures, they will have to assess.

Chris commented that the facilities had increased 8% of the budget; it's a big baseline increase. \$295K scheduled maintenance.

Mr. King explained that it is scheduled maintenance plan that is followed each year to maintain the facilities.

Mr. King stated that he had worked up proposed baseline but is not ready to present it. There is reluctance in town to issue a bond.

- We are thinking about adding another bus in Stow.
- There is no fuel escalator in the contract.
- The governor's budget could impact the school budget.
- The Tech Dept. Salaries are for the people who run the systems.
- School Choice, Pre-school and tuitions are moved to offset.
- No capital project grants.
- High School Capital is roofs, windows and heating issues.

Nashoba - Renovations in the past did not touch the classrooms

Hale – Is in good shape overall.

- At some point the elevator will need repair approx. \$215k.
- We switched over to gas 3 years ago.
- Will need to remove the oil tank \$18k
- Pot holes on Hartley road need repair
- New auditorium curtain
- Re-key entire building – all doors
- Window replacements
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Capital – some replacement of windows, smoke detectors and Fire alarms systems.

When asked about solar Mr. King said, "it is a complicated thing. At best we will break even."

When asked for an estimated time frame for capital, Mr. King replied, "Not this Town Meeting. Over the next year we will start the discussions. We will be looking for ideas from the towns.

Mr. King out at 9:20pm.

Members commented that the cost per pupil is very high. The numbers in cost and test scores has got to improve.

Correspondence

None at this time

Review of Minutes

After a review of the minutes Ann Deluty moved to approve January 08, 2013 minutes as submitted. Peter McManus seconded the motion.

The motion carried for 2 (McManus and Deluty)

Abstained 1 (Rick Rollins)

Liaison Reports

None at this time

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Veterans Officer – monthly reimbursable benefits - \$1390.46

The amount requested is to be used for payment of benefits for a resident for February 2013

The VA's case is still pending. This is the 4th payment to the resident. We are still waiting for the case to be approved for reimbursement by the VA.

Ann Deluty moved to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$1390.46 for the monthly benefits for a Stow resident pending approval. Bruce Walbridge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (McManus, Deluty, Rollins and Walbridge)

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Other Business

Budget reviews need to be scheduled, Fire, Assessors, Library, Building Dept. and Recreation.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Walbridge at 9:37pm. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (McManus, Rollins, Walbridge, Sarno and Deluty)

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Administrative Assistant