

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2013**

Attendees: Kevin Smith (KS), Patti Affenito (PA), Bob Jepson (BJ), Joni Light (JL), Laurance Morrison (LM), Kathy Neal (KN), Mike Serio (MS), Arnold Wilson (AW)

Guests: Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator; Barbara Barry, Finance Director; Greg Morse, DPW Director

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

AW made a motion to transfer the amount of \$740.29 from the Reserve Fund account (19102-57800) to the Central Purchasing Water/Sewer account (19152-52320); seconded by MS. So voted, 8 – 0.

The Finance Committee discussed the implications of Article 12 – Sewer Department with the Town Administrator, Finance Director and DPW Director. Town is currently collecting revenue on leachate in-take into the wastewater treatment plant. Discussion then revolved on the remaining balance in the Sewer Fund Balance if the article were to pass. The Finance Committee expressed concern about the remaining balance should some extraordinary event occur. The Finance Director explained if costs related to Sewer operations exceeded the Fund Balance the Town would have to borrow then recoup the funds as part of the sewer rate. There was consensus among all parties that the Town should move to assessing the actual costs in the rate rather than using the fund balance to lower the rate. The Finance Director also pointed out that refinancing outstanding debt could also lower the rates.

For Article 12 – Sewer Department, MS made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

AW made motion to recommend the amount of \$71,706.00 for the Building Inspector Department Head Salary account (12411-51120); seconded by LM. So voted, 6 – 1 – 1.

MS made motion to recommend the amount of \$20,162.00 for the Town Administrator Merit Based Incentive account (11232-51170); seconded by BJ. So voted, 7 – 1.

AW made a motion to reconsider the Town Administrator Purchase of Services account (11232-52000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

AW made a motion to recommend the amount of \$6,500.00 for the Town Administrator Purchase of Services account (11232-52000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

MS made a motion to reconsider the Town Administrator Matching Grant Funds account (11232-58000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 6 – 2.

MS made a motion to recommend the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Town Administrator Matching Grant Funds account (11232-58000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 6 – 2.

The Town Administrator informed the Finance Committee that the Board of Selectmen decided not to support the School Resource Officer nor the Emergency Management Coordinator positions.

AW made a motion to reconsider the Police Department Salaries/Wages account (12101-51130); seconded by LM. Motion defeated, 3 – 4 – 1.

MS made a motion to reconsider the Fire Department Purchase of Services account (12202-52000); seconded by KS. So voted, 6 – 1.

MS made a motion to reconsider the Fire Department Supplies account (12202-54000); seconded by KS. So voted, 6 – 1.

MS made a motion to recommend the amount of \$52,382.00 for the Fire Department Purchase of Services account (12202-52000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

MS made a motion to recommend the amount of \$53,504.00 for the Fire Department Supplies account (12202-54000); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

The Town Administrator informed the Finance Committee that the Pool Inspector is fee based.

KS made a motion to reconsider the Pool Inspector account (15202-53130); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

KS made a motion to recommend the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Pool Inspector account (15202-53130); seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

MS made a motion to reconsider the Administrator's Discretionary account (19102-xxxxx); seconded by LM. Motion defeated, 4 – 4.

On Article 3 – 310 Main Street, the Town Administrator informed the Finance Committee that the Board of Selectmen's intent was to purchase the 1.5 acres for \$180,000.00 and raze it with the remaining \$28,000.00. The Finance Committee expressed several concerns: no one was able to confirm the building was not historic; Town bylaws prevent the building from being razed for six months; and, Townspeople should be allowed to give their opinion on what should be done with the building.

For Article 3 – 310 Main Street, AW made a motion that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, or eminent domain, the parcel of land with the improvements thereon located at 310 Main Street, which parcel is identified as Assessors Parcel 415-/0 2913/- 310 and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 47831, Page 318, for general municipal purposes, and to transfer from free cash the sum of \$185,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100

DOLLARS) to fund the foregoing acquisition and costs related thereto; seconded by MS. So voted, 5 – 3.

For Article 15 – Revolving Funds, AW made a motion to amend the article by changing the maximum expenditure of the Board of Health Revolving Fund to \$15,000.00 and remove the words “public health nursing” from the Board of Health Revolving Fund purpose, and to otherwise approve the article as written; seconded by JL. So voted 5 – 3.

For Article 19 – Ambulance Stabilization Fund, MS made a motion to approve the article as written, seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

Motion made to adjourn at 10:58 PM by BJ; seconded by LM. So voted, 8 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Smith