



Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2012

Place: BOS Meeting Room

Present:

Christine Horwath	P	Mark Andrews	A	Howard Fortner	P
Peter DeMers	P	John Morawski	P	Ray Wright	A
Maureen Kearnan	P				

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Discussion and Review of February 1, 2012 Tax Bills

Finance Director David Genereux explained the Commonwealth laws regarding the issuance and standard format of property tax bills. The new tax rate was set at \$15.10 per thousand (valuation). Mr. Genereux mentioned that while the debt for the new high school took effect at the start of the first quarter of FY2012, that debt could not be reflected on the tax bill until the new rate was set. The impact was more pronounced because the raise in taxes was over two billings, not four.

2. Minutes: October 19, 2011 revision

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on October 19, 2011				
1 st	MK	2 nd	PD	Vote	5-0-0

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on December 14, 2011				
1 st	JM	2 nd	HF	Vote	5-0-0

3. Fire and Police: Review of 2012 Budget and future 2013 Budget

Chief Ostroskey addressed the committee stating that the paring down of the budget over the years has put stress on the department. Each year the FD is given a budget number (based on the collective bargaining agreement) and has been forced to make concessions in certain areas, including:

- Defer into the next fiscal year those things that should be taken care of in the current FY.
- More staff costs have been shifted to the Ambulance side.

-Expense budgets have been reduced from \$79,000 to \$49,000 since he has been chief, all while costs (utilities) have increased.

-Unforeseen expenses have diminished the expense budget.

The FD has closed the North Uxbridge station in order to save on heating costs. The savings have been offset by the unforeseen expenses. Expenses include repairs to thermal imaging cameras (\$1400) and SCBA (\$200-\$400 per repair). The FD has applied for a Federal grant to replace the aging SCBA but to date no grant money has been awarded.

Chief Ostroskey mentioned that the supplemental budget submitted each year includes items that were typically included in the regular budget.

Chief Freitas addressed the committee and stated that salaries, specifically overtime (vacation fill in), is not adequate to provide coverage. A salary shortage of \$7,000 for FY2012 is projected.

The Police department is trending 1,000 more calls YTD. Chief Freitas mentioned that at times, resources are not immediately available to respond to requests for service. The saturation point has risen to 25% and at times there are only two officers available to respond. The Chief also mentioned that building and vehicle maintenance continues to be a concern.

4. Review of FY2013 Budget Assumptions

David Genereux discussed the budget assumptions used in preparation of Department Head preliminary budgets. Assumptions are detailed in Mr. Genereux's memo dated December 28, 2011.

Mr. Genereux commented that FY2012 is still expected to be the worst year as previously predicted. Fiscal year 2013 is anticipated to be slightly better. For FY2012, the Veteran's Agent budget is in trouble along with the Fire and Police Departments budgets.

5. Committee Member Questions

a. Dog Officer's vehicle

Chief Freitas stated that the dog officer continues to work 3 towns with an inadequate vehicle. Salary budget is adequate but the expense account is stressed. Vehicle maintenance, vet and boarding expenses are taking a toll. Chief Freitas spoke to the police chiefs from Douglas and Mendon about a potential collaboration in the funding for an adequate vehicle (i.e. van).

b. Municipal Small Capital Fund

\$30,000 of the \$100,000 has been allocated to a new Police cruiser

c. Business Zoning Master Plan

Not available

d. Snow and Ice Spending

Spending is at 32% of budget

e. Update on Overdue Taxes/Tax Liens

Since the first lien sale notice, \$170,000 has been collected.

6. Finance Committee Budget for FY2013

The committee chair presented the proposed Finance Committee budget.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To set the FY2013 Reserve fund transfer budget at \$64,500				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	5-0-0

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To set the FY2013 expense budget at \$400				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	5-0-0

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To allocate \$500 in the FY2013 budget for a clerk stipend				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	4-1-0

The Finance Committee budget sent to the Town was \$65,400 total, a reduction of \$3,483 from FY2102.

7. Monthly Reports

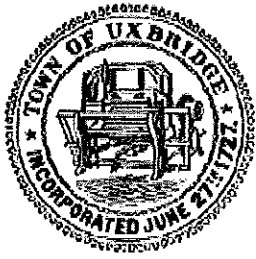
Mr. Genereux reviewed his December 2011 monthly report and highlighted the special revenue, grants, revolving, capital and agency funding reports which are now part of his monthly reports.

He also mentioned that several budgets are stressed as detailed in the monthly variance report.

8. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn.				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	5-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath	<i>Christine Horwath</i>	3/7/12
Mark Andrews	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Howard Fortner	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Peter DeMers		
John Morawski	<i>John Morawski</i>	3/7/12
Ray Wright	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Maureen Kearnan	<i>Maureen Kearnan</i>	3/7/12