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Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:

March 7, 2012

Place:

BOS Meeting Room

Present:

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

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Minutes: January 17, 2012

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2012, as written				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	3-1-2

Discussion: Mr. Fortner stated that David Genereux, the Town Finance Director, when asked if a similar format to the water and sewer bill showing various elements of debt could be added, stated that this could not be done as the bill is submitted as prescribed by the state. Mr. Fortner then asked if a separate sheet could be included to illustrate the various elements of debt, Mr. Genereux acknowledged that this could be done, as long as the additional sheet weighed less than one ounce—so as not to increase the approved postage.

Mr. Fortner noticed that under number 5 in the minutes, Mr. Genereux stated that the Snow and Ice budget was at 32%, but the December budget stated 28.85% of budget, and the January budget stated 42%. The Chair, Mrs. Horwath, noted that on January 17th, the day of the meeting, which occurred in between reports, Mr. Genereux was asked to deliver the actual, up-to-date amount spent, which was the reported 32%.

2. Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Police Department Animal Control: Request to transfer \$3,500 from Reserve Fund FY2012 to the Police Department/Animal Control in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of Massachusetts General Law. The fund number is 0100 292 5318. The current balance is \$400 for animal control expenses.

Police Chief Scott Freitas stated that Massachusetts General Law requires that when a dog is not claimed, it must be held for 10 days before it is euthanized. Uxbridge covers three towns, and the procedure must be done humanely. Usually, expenses for animal care goes to the owner, when the owner can be identified, but sometimes, the owner cannot be identified, and the bills fall to the Police Department. Also, repair to the current Animal Control Vehicle is required, and there are bills to be paid on this vehicle. In the near future, it may be possible for the Police Department to lease a new Animal Control Vehicle, and this may reduce repair costs.

Mr. Andrews asked if the costs for Uxbridge to provide these services for three towns could be spread across the three towns, and Chief Freitas mentioned that he was working with the Mr. Genereux to ensure that this happened. Mr. Fortner asked for clarification from Chief Freitas as to where the funds, when paid back from other towns, are deposited, and Chief Freitas confirmed that the other towns pay back the fees to the Uxbridge General Fund. This means that money is spent from the Animal Control account but it is not returned to the Animal Control account, when paid back by other towns.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To transfer \$3,500 from the Reserve Fund FY2012 to Animal Control expenses				
	account.				
1 st	MA	2 nd	JM	Vote	6-0-0

The Finance Director, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of Massachusetts General Law requests a transfer of \$4,493 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to the account for County Retirement, account number 0100 911 5173 0000 0000 00002 000000, which currently has a balance of \$0.

This request is for an assessment of payments by Worcester Retirement to deployed personnel for military service in the calendar year 2010. Mr. Genereux noted in his request that the balance of the Reserve Fund would be \$45,890 after the transfer.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion To transfer \$4,493 to the County Retirement Fund.					
1 st	MA	2 nd	HF	Vote	6-0-0

Discussion: Mr. Fortner noted that the Town Manager has acknowledged that since the current payroll software package has been put in place, the Town has experienced a couple dozen people with payroll problems regarding retirement accounts. This is an issue that will need to be addressed by the Town, and the Chair will put this on the agenda of a future meeting.

3. 2013 Budget - Brief Review

This was tabled.

4. Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant - Brief Review

Mrs. Horwath briefly reviewed the Articles of the Warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

5. Set up of Public Hearing Schedule – Preliminary

Mrs. Horwath will set the schedule for the Public Hearing before the Finance Committee. The meeting date is May 8, 2012. The Finance Committee will set its dates for Public Hearings to accommodate its time requirements for their completion.

6. Monthly Reports

The Finance Committee received the January 2012 Monthly Report at the meeting. No additional action was taken on this agenda item. Finance Committee members should submit questions to the Chairman for discussion at the next meeting.

7. New Business

Snow and Ice Deficit Spending

The Director of the Department of Public Works, Benn Sherman, reported that the Town has had five events that have required the use of snow plows. In presenting the DPW's current spending of this budget in a week-by-week summary, the Town is still under its overall budget and still within its budget for salaries. Mr. Sherman requested authorization for deficit spending.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To allow deficit spending for the snow and ice account.				
1 st	MA	2 nd	JM	Vote	6-0-0

As a matter of procedure, the Town Manager needs to sign off on this request prior to it coming before the Finance Committee, which was accomplished prior to the vote.

Secretary's Note: This item was discussed after item 2 and prior to item 3 on the meeting's agenda. The motion was made, seconded, and voted upon after item 3 was discussed.

8. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn.	•			
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	6-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath	Church Howard	4/5/12
Mark Andrews	Marcullen	4/5/12
Howard Fortner	Soward W Forth	4-5-12
Peter DeMers		with the second price of the second s
John Morawski	In Vous	4/5/12
Ray Wright	(13-1). Will	4/5/12
Maureen Kearnan	Maureen Kearnan	4/5/12