

Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

APR 25 '12 RCVD

Date: April 5, 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: March 7, 2012

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2012, as written				
1 st	JM	2 nd	MK	Vote	6-0-0

2. Hearings – Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- Town Manager's Budget Message
- Police and Animal Control Budget
- Fire Budget
- Article 10 – Ambulance Division Budget
- Article 15 – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To open the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant				
1 st	MA	2 nd	RW	Vote	5-1-0

Town Manager's Budget Message: The Town Manager, Sean Hendricks, summarized the proposed Town budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget is based on revenues of \$36,843,860, an increase of 1.8% over Fiscal Year 2012.

Mr. Hendricks reported several notable issues with the proposed budget. He acknowledged that the Town is experiencing some glitches in the payroll software it uses for Town employees, and a physical audit of the Town's payroll will increase the workload for accountants. He stated that the Health Insurance premium increase of 6.65% is less than was expected. Mr. Hendricks also stated that an addendum would be issued, as the School

Budget and State reimbursement figures are finalized, and the addendum would include a reallocation of savings on insurance premiums.

Mr. Hendricks was joined by the Town Finance Director, David Genereux, to answer questions from the Finance Committee on the Budget Message. The exchange included questions on compliance with the procedures set forth in the Town Charter, the new revenue sharing agreement between the Municipal Budget and the School Budget, and the outlook for the Town's ability to maintain its aging infrastructure at current revenue levels.

Mr. Genereux stated that an updated budget document would be forthcoming in the next week.

Police and Animal Control Budget: Chief Scott Freitas and Lieutenant Peter Emerick of the Uxbridge Police Department met with the Finance Committee to discuss this budget.

Items discussed included moving "clothing and cleaning" for uniforms from an Expense line into salaries, the status of the fleet of police vehicles, the accounting for phone and computer upgrades, the time required to train a new officer to bring into the department, and the number of officers involved in military service. The department agreed to provide the Finance Committee with information on the age and mileage of its fleet of vehicles.

Lieutenant Emerick addressed questions on Emergency Management and Animal Control.

Fire Budget: Chief William Kessler of the Uxbridge Fire Department met with the Finance Committee to discuss this budget.

Chief Kessler stated that the ladder truck, which is ten years old and needs servicing on its hydraulic lines, may be an issue in FY13. He also spoke to the costs of fire gear. The Chief noted a drop in heating costs this past winter. Overall, the Fire Budget is level-funded relative to FY12.

Article 10 – Ambulance Division Budget: Chief Kessler stayed to discuss this Article with the Finance Committee. Because Milford Hospital has stopped replenishing supplies for the ambulance, this year's budget shows a big increase in costs for supplies. Smart purchasing and new protocols have reduced costs with no sacrifice to patient safety and care.

Article 15 – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus: Chief Kessler informed the Finance Committee that 2/3 of the current units conform to 1992 standards, and the other 1/3 of the current units conform to 1997 standards; the standards for these units were raised in 2002 and again in 2007. Improvements include a heads-up display warning system, a lower profile for personnel wearing the apparatus, and a universal valve that allows for breathing from other systems that meet current standards.

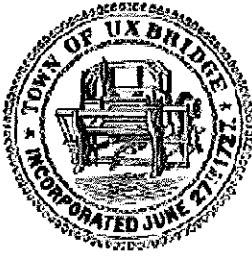
Chief Kessler informed the Finance Committee that the department is also pursuing funding for these units through a Grant, and the results of this effort would not be known for another few weeks. If a Grant were to be awarded, the Article may be amended to reflect the difference between the amount currently sought and the amount a Grant might provide.

In the discussion of potential funding sources for this purchase, Mr. Genereux shared with the Finance Committee that the recent public auction of Tax Liens on local properties raised nearly \$500,000 that will be moved into the General Fund.

3. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

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



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath		
Mark Andrews	<i>Mark Andrews</i>	4-17-12
Howard Fortner	<i>Not approved</i>	4-17-12
Peter DeMers		
John Morawski	<i>John Morawski</i>	4/17/12
Ray Wright	<i>Ray Wright</i>	4/17/12
Maureen Kearnan	<i>Maureen Kearnan</i>	4/17/12