

# Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2012

Place: Lower Town Hall

Present:

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

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Acting Chairman, Mark Andrews

## 1. Hearings –Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- Blackstone Valley Regional School Budget

Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, addressed the Finance Committee to present the BVT School Budget for FY 2013 and to answer questions from the committee and the public. Overall, the budget has increased by 2.77% from FY 2012, though the Uxbridge portion of the budget decreased by \$3,767. Of the 13 towns supported by the BVT system, Uxbridge has the largest population with 169 students, as of October 1, 2011. Like all towns, the Uxbridge assessment is based on its percentage of the school's student population.

Dr. Fitzpatrick discussed financing approaches to roof repairs and science lab renovations, and he spoke proudly of the school's ability to make good use of its trades people and vocational people to maintain the 50-year-old building and its roughly 30 satellite sites for off-campus learning. Health insurance increases are 0% for Harvard Pilgrim and 6% for Fallon.

Dr. Fitzpatrick answered questions from the committee on the educational tracks, school-based health centers, accreditation visits by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and more. Citizens in attendance were offered the opportunity to participate in the hearing, which lasted nearly one hour.

- Cable—Articles 11, 12

Barry Giles, Program Coordinator, Uxbridge Community Television, presented the Cable budget to the committee and spoke specifically to Articles 11 and 12. Overall, the budget for FY 2013 reflects a 2.36% increase over FY 2012 or \$3,269.

Mr. Giles discussed data and internet services, contractual services, the plan for the new school configuration, and his desire to update both his equipment and storage media. Mr. Giles answered questions on the Retained Earnings Account, studio arrangements in the new Uxbridge High School, community channels, and discrepancies in the budget, which was off by \$5,000.

With regard to Article 12, Mr. Giles presented a list with pricing for equipment to be used at the new studio in the new Uxbridge High School. Mr. Giles answered questions from the committee on the need for the new equipment and possible alternative options for equipment needs. He also discussed the ability of the public to access the new studio and how access to the school would be prohibited. The Town Finance Director, David Genereux, joined the discussion at times.

Citizens in attendance were offered the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

- Article 7—Community Gardens

The Town Manager, Sean Hendricks, discussed this Article with the committee. Mr. Hendricks outlined the site for the Community Gardens, the authority by which the account for its use is to be established, the revenue expectations and guidelines for the account, and the opinion of Town Council. Mr. Hendricks answered questions from the committee on financial limits to the account, by whom donations of equipment to the Community Gardens would be owned, and the financial liabilities to the town if injuries were to occur at the site. Mr. Hendricks was asked to provide Town Council's written opinion.

Citizens in attendance were offered the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

- Article 16—Lease of Town Property for Solar Array

According to Mr. Hendricks, if a company were to approach the Town of Uxbridge in July, this Article would open the door to discussions about using town property. The Town would still need to vote its approval to authorize such a lease. Mr. Hendricks answered questions on site specifics, Executive Order 196, and proximity to soccer fields and Community Gardens. Citizens in attendance were offered the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

- Article 19—ByLaw Enforcement

The committee was told that the Town of Uxbridge is only looking to subject two by-laws to this Article to demonstrate how the Town intends to stand behind its laws and to enforce them. Mr. Fortner stated that the Article is too ambiguous and does not say which by-laws we want to enforce. Citizens in attendance were offered the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

**2. Recommendations for Spring Town Meeting Article(s)**

Moved to meeting planned for April 18, 2012.

**3. Meeting Minutes—April 5, 2012, April 11, 2012**

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To accept the meeting minutes of April 5, 2012, as written.				
1 <sup>st</sup>	MK	2 <sup>nd</sup>	JM	Vote	4-1-0

Discussion: On page 2, paragraph 2 of the minutes, Mr. Fortner would like to have replaced the word “procedures” with “requirements.”

No motion was made on the meeting minutes for April 11, 2012.

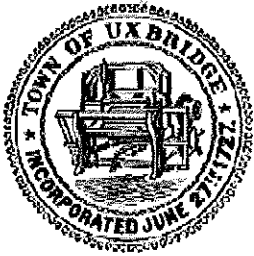
**4. Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Genereux reported that the Veterans’ Benefit budget will require a Reserve Fund Transfer request, and that this request should be the last meet where a transfer is requested.

**5. Adjournment**

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn.				
1 <sup>st</sup>	JM	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MK	Vote	5-0-0



# Finance Committee Approval Sheet

April 17, 2012

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath		5/8/12
Mark Andrews		5/8/12
Howard Fortner		
Peter DeMers		
John Morawski		5/8/12
Ray Wright		5/8/12
Maureen Kearnan	Maureen Kearnan	5/8/12