

Members Present: Jo Lown, Chair, Bill Linnane, Cliff Watts, Ian Johnson, John E. Arnold, Brigitte Casemyr, Michael Meachen. Absent: Judy Lucas.

At 7:02 p.m. Ms. Lown called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

### **Open Forum**

There were no requests to address the committee.

### **Approval of minutes – Meeting No. 27, April 27, 2009.**

Mr. Watts moved to approve the minutes of meeting No. 27, April 27, 2009 as amended. The vote to approve the minutes was 7 in favor, with 7 being present.

### **Liaison Updates**

Ms. Casemyr reported that Jim Robbins is requesting an additional \$500 for Planning Board expenses for training and education and \$400 for travel in-state to enable both Jim Robbins and Derek Saari to attend conferences in FY10.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Fire Department has not heard of any other organization willing to take over the Senior Smoke Detector Battery Replacement Program.

Ms. Lown reported that Leah Talbot, Town Accountant, does not have information on the total funds needed for Step increases for non-union town employees. Maryanne Bilodeau clarified the estimate on window replacement in the Forbes Community Building as including the cost of the windows, the cost of labor at the prevailing wage to install the new windows, and the necessary contractor bond. Ms. Lown has requested a copy of the Bay State Commons deed from Greg Franks, Town Counsel, as well as information on possible savings in the Town Counsel's budget from using online services rather than hard-copy law books.

Mr. Watts reported that Joe Inman, Building Commissioner, estimates the cost of the construction permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be 1% of the total value, or \$540,000. Electrical permits cost 50¢ per amp of power, so would not be as expensive as the construction permits.

Mr. Linnane and Ms. Lown have prepared a draft budget for Youth and Family Services. John Badenhause, Director, has confirmed that this budget would enable him to maintain all current programs for FY10.

### **Financial Updates**

Ms. Lown has added new figures, including votes taken at the last meeting, to the spreadsheet for the ATM Booklet. The committee reviewed the latest recap sheets, and discussed the Library State Aid decreases. No new information has come from the Legislature on the state funding.

### **Discussion and votes on various FY2009 Articles and budgets**

A table of votes taken is attached to these minutes.

#### **Youth and Family Services (WYFS)**

Ms. Lown stated reasons for increasing the budget, including the identified programs, number of families served, and clinical hours provided. The Committee has received many letters in support of this Department and one letter opposed to funding. The Department gets referrals from the police, courts, and schools at the rate of 50 per month. The Holiday Store is used by many town residents. Last year there were 322 teens in the Hot Summer Nights Program. There has been no study of the consequences

of pulling funding for this program. Ms. Lown noted the short term savings of the proposed cuts, but felt the reduction in programs could have long term consequences, both financial and non-financial. The budget amount proposed by her motion will not cut services. The Department is looking for alternative sources of funding but needs time to develop them.

Mr. Linnane asked Mr. Arnold and Mr. Johnson why they voted against the motion. Mr. Arnold is waiting to see what the excess levy capacity will be. The cut in funding would not eliminate all services. He is not convinced that it is the job of town government to provide these services. He is hopeful there is enough money in the levy capacity to allow him to change his vote. Mr. Johnson agrees that the town fiscal situation is too fluid at this time to add increased expenses to the Coordinator's recommendations.

Mr. Linnane is supporting the increase because the Department had been told in the past not to get outside funding for its programs, and because the Recreation Department was given time to make budget adjustments and seek other funding, so it would be unfair to not give WYFS the same opportunity.

### **Planning Board**

Ms. Casemyr would like to increase the expenses of the Department to \$5,302. Ms. Casemyr feels this Board provides a crucial service to the town, and needs to attend conferences to keep the pipeline of ideas open and planning strategies current, especially as the town moves from new development to redevelopment. Mr. Meachen stated his support for the increase. Mr. Arnold feels training is necessary and appreciates the ideas generated from attendance at conferences, but will not support an increase until final numbers are known.

### **Conservation Commission**

Mr. Johnson recommends removing the \$3,000 for fish stocking from the budget.

### **ARTICLE 22. (DPW Manager) Equipment**

Mr. Meachen asks if this is a "nice to have" item. Mr. Johnson feels this is a priority, but can't say the Department cannot function without it. Ms. Casemyr notes the DPW felt this truck was a priority but that the sweeper may be delayed. Ms. Lown has concerns with the lease payment for the sweeper, which includes 5% financing charge, since to borrow the funds outright would be at 3% interest. Some funds for the sweeper would be eligible for Chapter 90 reimbursement. Mr. Arnold would like to add a provision to the recommendation stating that the town's fleet not be increased. Mr. Linnane notes that this truck is large enough to use with a plow, and that if the truck is out of service in the winter this may necessitate hiring another contractor to plow snow.

### **Article 23 (DPW Manager) Equipment**

Mr. Arnold is not comfortable embarking on a five year commitment at this time. Ms. Lown would like to either purchase this outright or look at borrowing funds rather than leasing, and notes this could be taken up again for Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Linnane would like to study other alternatives on how to sweep the streets. Ms. Lown noted the Board of Selectmen may also want to have the new Town Manager look at other options, including the possibility of an intergovernmental sharing agreement.

### **ARTICLE 29. Amendment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocation H.S. District Agreement (Board of Selectmen)**

Mr. Arnold distributed a possible footnote. Ms. Lown stated both sides of this argument, and stated her belief that while voting in favor of the Articles would seem to indicate agreement with the proposed Agreement, and that voting against could be construed as siding with Marlborough, neither is necessarily true. Mr. Watts and Mr. Meachen would like to support the Assabet Superintendent and vote as she has requested. Ms. Lown questioned whether Marlborough City Council could change their vote after Westborough's ATM has concluded.

### **Article 33. Accept Gift of Land (Board of Selectmen)**

Committee consensus is to defer vote.

### **Report & Recommendations to Voters**

Mr. Harrington, Town Moderator, has confirmed the process to be used for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 16. The subject matter for this STM is identical to Article 11 in the Warrant. When Article 11 is reached motion will be made to pass over. At approximately 5 p.m. the ATM will adjourn until after the Special Town Meeting. At 7 p.m. the Special Town Meeting will convene to deal with Article 1 (Article 11 in the Warrant.) If the Article is voted on the Special Town Meeting will be dissolved. If not, STM will be adjourned until a later date. At this time, ATM will reconvene.

The committee discussed Mr. Arnold's footnote for Article 29.

Ms. Lown would like to use endnotes rather than footnotes so that the numbers in the spreadsheet are larger and more detail can be added. The Committee discussed the format of the booklet and graphs.

- Ms. Lown will add an endnote on Insurance
- Mr. Meachen will send updated graphs
- Mr. Johnson will update spreadsheet on budgets
- Ms. Lown will update recap sheet
- Mr. Arnold will write a footnote for Article 23

Ms. Lown will have the final draft booklet prepared for review and approval by the Committee at the Thursday May 7 meeting. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Watts will do final proofreading.

### **Comments and Concerns of Committee Members**

Town Elections are tomorrow, and the Committee reminded all registered voters to vote.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:20 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

## **Votes taken at the Finance Committee meeting on April 30, 2009**

### **1) Budget votes**

Budgets are voted on using figures current as of 4/30/09.

#### **Selectmen/Coordinator, Dept. No. 11221, 11223**

Salary \$327,569, Expenses \$45,250, Total \$369,819

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$2,500 salary of elected officials, \$322,069 salary-other, and \$45,250 expenses.  
Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

#### **Legal, Dept. No. 11511, 11513**

Salary \$116,114, Expenses \$51,688, Total \$167,802

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$116,114 salary and \$51,688 expenses.  
Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

#### **Youth and Family Services, Dept. No. 15421/15422, 15423**

Salary \$153,541, Expenses \$7,000, Total \$160,541

Ms. Lown moved to accept the \$153,541 salary and \$7,000 expenses.  
Vote to approve the budget recommendation is 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Arnold, Johnson) with 7 being present.

#### **Planning Board, Dept. No. 11721, 11723**

Salary \$201,930, Expenses \$5,302, Total \$207,232

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$201,930 salary and \$5,302 expenses.  
Vote to approve the budget recommendation is 4 in favor and 3 opposed (Linnane, Johnson, Arnold) with 7 being present.

#### **Conservation Comm., Dept. No. 11712, 11713**

Salary \$39,004, Expenses \$1,125, Total \$40,129

Mr. Watts moved to accept the \$39,004 salary and \$1,125 expenses.  
Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

### **2) Article votes**

#### **ARTICLE 8. Regularly Recurring Articles (Town Manager)**

##### **F. (Recreation Department)**

Mr. Watts moved to recommend the town vote to transfer \$150 from Article 9F of the 2008 ATM and transfer \$2,350 from FY08 Personnel Board Encumbrances for the purposes of this article.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Arnold, Casemyr), with 7 being present.

#### **ARTICLE 22. Purchase Equipment (DPW Manager)**

Mr. Watts moved to recommend the town vote to transfer \$9,494 from Overlay Surplus, transfer \$377 from Article 20 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, transfer \$1,129 from the Fiscal 2008 DPW Encumbrances, transfer \$22,000 from Water Retained Earnings, and transfer \$22,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings for the purposes of this article.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

#### **ARTICLE 23. Purchase Equipment (DPW Manager)**

Mr. Watts moved to recommend the Town vote to transfer \$39,186 from Overlay Surplus for the purposes of this article.

Vote to defeat the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 opposed with 7 being present.

Mr. Arnold moved to recommend the town vote to defeat this article.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

**ARTICLE 25. Work on Town Sewer System (DPW Manager)**

Mr. Watts moved to recommend the town vote to transfer \$704 from Article 26B of the 2002 Annual Town Meeting, transfer \$990 from Fiscal 2008 Sewer Encumbrances, and transfer \$23,306 from Sewer Retained Earnings for item A, and further to transfer \$40,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings for item B, for the purposes of this article.

Vote to approve the budget recommendation is unanimous, 7 in favor with 7 being present.

**ARTICLE 29. Amendment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocation H.S. District Agreement (Board of Selectmen)**

Mr. Arnold moved to recommend the town vote to defeat this article.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is 2 in favor (Arnold, Casemyr) and 5 opposed, with 7 being present.

Mr. Watts moved to recommend the town vote to support this article.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Arnold, Casemyr), with 6 being present.