

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Deputy Chair, F. Robert Brown, Bill Linnane, John E. Arnold, Michael Meachen, Kevin Cronin. Absent: Jo Lown, Judy Lucas, Brigitte Casemyr.

At 7:03 p.m. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

### **Open Forum**

There were no requests to address the committee.

### **Request for Transfer of Funds**

Nancy Yendriga appeared before the committee to request three transfers from Reserve Funds of \$6,587 for Wages – Clerical, \$1,411.99 for Food and Food Service Supplies, and \$1,650 for Printing and Copying. These funds will be used to cover unforeseen costs of the extra elections held to fill the vacant Senate seat. Ms. Yendriga anticipates receiving some grant funds to reduce cost of the January election, but if this does occur those funds would go to the town General Fund rather than to the Elections accounts. There was 60% turnout in town for this election. All election workers are paid minimally and fed lunch.

Mr. Johnson moved to transfer from Finance Committee Reserve Funds the amounts of \$6,587 to budget line 11621-5103 Wages-Clerical, \$1,411.79 to budget line 11623-5222 Food & Food Service Supplies, and \$1,650 to budget line 11623-5228 Printing & Copying. The vote to approve the transfers is unanimous, 6 in favor with 6 being present.

Joanne Savignac appeared before the committee to request a transfer from Reserve Funds of \$23,737 to Treasurer/Collector Tax Title account. These funds are to pay invoices from a scheduled sale of property that was redeemed, just before the auction at the auction site, by the former owner. The former owner paid all costs (which included past due taxes with penalties and interest, auctioneer fee, and legal fees), but issued only one check for all costs which was deposited to the town's General Fund. The homeowner was able to remain in their home. Penalties and interest were paid at the statutory rate of 16%. There is no appropriation for Ms. Savignac to pay the invoices from the auctioneer and attorney using General Funds, making the requested transfer from Reserve Funds necessary for this unforeseen expense.

Mr. Arnold moved to transfer from Finance Committee Reserve Funds the amount of \$23,737.00 to budget line 11383-5243A Treasurer/Collector Tax Title account. The vote to approve the transfer is unanimous, 6 in favor with 6 being present.

Paul McNulty submitted a request for \$900 to pay for December 2009 nursing services for TB follow-up for one current case. Mr. Johnson notes it is a state mandate that the town pay for nursing services to monitor medication compliance in TB cases.

Mr. Arnold moved to transfer from Finance Committee Reserve Funds the amount of \$900 to budget line 15123-5245 – Other Professional Service (Nursing). The vote to approve the transfer is unanimous, 6 in favor with 6 being present.

### **Discussion of minutes – Meetings No. 12, FY2010, January 4, 2010.**

Mr. Arnold moved to approve the minutes of meeting No. 12, FY2010, January 4, 2010. The vote to approve the minutes was 5 in favor and 1 abstention (Meachen) with 6 being present.

**Liaison updates:**

Mr. Arnold requested a tally of the Reserve Fund for next meeting.

Mr. Brown attended a meeting with the Board of Health which included a discussion about dump sticker fees. He expects them to increase the fees, and maintain the 2-year cycle.

Mr. Linnane reported on the meeting with Congressman McGovern and Lt. Governor Murray, and 3 representatives to announce a \$5.7 M federal grant towards the debt from the WWTP, to be paid at the completion of the project. This will save the town from borrowing these funds.

Mr. Arnold will meet with Carolyn Delude later this week.

Mr. Johnson reminded committee of a possible transfer request from the Town Manager to pay for a study of service regionalization. Mr. Arnold questions whether this study is an unforeseen expense that would need to be done prior to next Fiscal Year. He also has some reservations about whether a group organized from School Finance Officers is the best group to find savings. Mr. Cronin asked about the possibility of getting information from other studies of other districts, to use to begin the discussion, before paying for this study. Mr. Linnane suggested Mr. Cronin and Mr. Arnold share their concerns with Mr. Malloy. He also feels that this may prevent an impending funding emergency by cutting back on expenses.

**Comments and Concerns of Committee Members**

Mr. Brown was not clear about how to make suggestions to departments about possible savings. Mr. Johnson feels the mechanism for any townspeople would be to make the suggestions to the Town Manager and Department Head, who will pass them on to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Johnson noted that Ms. Lown has distributed the Annual Report of the Finance Committee, and asked members to read it and send any comments to Ms. Lown.

Mr. Johnson also noted the updated Snow and Ice Budgets. There has been no request for deficit spending yet this year. Mr. Linnane commended the DPW for managing their time well this year, and not wasting the town's money.

Mr. Johnson also noted that Mr. Malloy is looking for any possible ways to save money, including savings on town health insurance. As there has been no change in the health insurance cost, Mr. Malloy has asked for a 1.8% decrease from all departments and committees. For the AFC this will result in a \$99 budget decrease.

Mr. Johnson noted that the next meeting will be the Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 9.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.