

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, J. J. Malone, Polly Howard, Jo Lown, Cliff Watts, Carolyn Spring (arrived 7:11 p.m.). Absent: John Arnold, Judy Lucas, Ronn Moody

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

Open Forum

Len Mead presented an analysis of income/expense trends over the last five years for the town. He requests that the Advisory Finance Committee make more information about large budget items available to townspeople at town meeting.

Approval of minutes – Meeting No. 6, January 8, 2007

Mr. Watts moved approval of the minutes of Meeting No. 6, January 8, 2007. The vote to approve the minutes was 5 in favor with 5 members present.

Transfer Request – Fire Department, Nick Perron

Chief Perron requests \$19,000.00 to buy recording equipment for telephone and radio calls coming into and going out of the Fire Station. The current equipment is no longer operable and is obsolete, and the lack of recording poses a liability for the town as well as a lack of quality control for the department. Brian Roberts and Matt Stockwell have researched types of equipment and costs, and recommend a new system that offers recording and instant playback of calls with information stored on DVDs. Ms. Spring moved to transfer \$19,000 from the Advisory Finance Committee reserve fund to the Fire Department Communication budget # 12203-5203A. The vote to approve the transfer was unanimous with 6 in favor and 6 present.

Transfer Request – Veterans Services, George A. Perry, III

Mr. Perry is requesting \$16,000 to cover the costs of his department for the rest of this fiscal year. He is currently spending \$3,000 per month and has \$1,000 left in his budget. His client count has increased in the last year, and some clients have had increased health care costs. Mr. Perry indicated that 75% of this money is reimbursable to the town. Mr. Watts moved to transfer \$16,000 from the Advisory Finance Committee reserve fund to the Veterans Services budget #15433-5709. The vote to approve the transfer was unanimous with 6 in favor and 6 present.

These two transfers leave \$265,000 in the reserve fund.

Future Meeting dates

Ms. Howard presented a calendar of future meetings for the Advisory Finance Committee. Meetings will be held on February 26, March 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 29, April 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, and 30, and May 3, 7, 10, and 12 (prior to ATM.) Annual Town Meeting will be held May 12, 2007. A joint meeting of the Advisory Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Capital Expenditures Committee will be held on February 13, 2007.

Liaison Updates

- Ms. Lown gave a brief overview of the projects presented to the Capital Expenditures Committee.
- Dr. Malone gave a brief update on budgets from the Accountant, Buildings and Grounds, and Insurance. He also pointed to two articles of interest from the Boston Globe regarding health care costs for municipalities.

- Ms. Spring gave a brief update on budgets from the Recreation, Legal, and Police Departments.
- Mr. Watts gave a brief update on the budget for the Council on Aging.
- Mr. Johnson gave a brief update on the budget from the Fire Department.

Comments and concerns of Committee members

- Ms. Howard has some questions about the proposed grouping of capital expenditures, which the School Committee is researching, since they are not all bid to the same company.
- Ms. Lown has concerns about the FY2009 Capital Expenditures plan, as it seems many projects are being scheduled for that year.
- Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Arnold is no longer a member of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, as a replacement was appointed by Governor Romney before he left office.

Adjournment

At 8:08 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (6 present and in favor).