

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

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. 2, September 8, 2008.**

Mr. Arnold moved to approve the minutes of meeting No. 2, September 8, 2008 as written in the draft of September 15, 2008. The vote to approve the minutes was 8 in favor, with 8 being present.

### **FY09 Financial Update**

Ms. Lown reported on the Finance team meeting of 9/10, outlining current fiscal situation, funds available and monies that will be requested at the STM. Ms. Talbot has prepared the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates for FY09 and 2010. FY09 shows an excess levy in the amount of \$254,789. It does not appear an override will be necessary to fund the FY09 budget this Fall, but likely we will need to address the issue at the Annual Town Meeting next May.

Available Funds = \$566,786, includes the current excess levy estimate is \$254,786 and an additional \$315,000 available to transfer from the 2009 Insurance budget. (A portion of this is from the insurance savings that will be realized by the Town as a result of the teachers' contract – increase share of certain health care costs to 25% as of July 1, 2008.) Overlay funds of approximately \$900,000 are now available following the Supreme Judicial Court decision on the Bell Atlantic/Verizon wireless case, which was favorable to towns. Mr. Danis is presenting the Final Warrant and financial info to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on Tuesday night, September 23rd.

Funding requests for the STM is as follows:

\$10,000 Economic Development Committee Article 4

\$60,000 Article 16 drainage study (added after 9/10 meeting)

\$1,489,485 Schools – Breakdown=

FY08 - \$216,957 – can be funded from the FY09 Insurance Budget (\$315K above)

FY09 \$1,272,528 balance

### **Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

The final draft warrant has been circulated, but will not be approved by the Board of Selectmen until their meeting of September 23. Mr. Arnold reported that the five current members of the Government Study Committee II have voted to request that Mr. Danis withdraw Article 2 from the warrant as this discussion is on the charge of the current committee and they will not have time to complete their study prior to Fall Town Meeting.

### **Liaison Updates**

Ms. Lown summarized the options presented to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Board. On August 11 the WTP Board voted to proceed with Option 2, with the additional items for Option 1 to be additive alternate. The idea, but not the vote, was to do Option 2 if the SRF remains at 2%, and to do Option 1 if we get 0%. On August 21, the Board was advised they would need to prepare and submit a 2009 Project Evaluation to be

eligible for SRF financing at 0%. They prepared a list of questions to present to the DEP concerning the funding eligibility. The Board also agreed on items to include in the Base Bid, and items to include as Additive Alternative. The WTPB will not have an item ready for Fall Town Meeting.

Ms. Lown also reported that the WTPB may have a shortfall in its budget for FY09. Every year around September, Veolia's fee for operations is recalculated and adjusted by Board under terms of the contract. The adjusted value is retroactive to July 1 - based upon a composite of the PPI (Producer Price Index) and the CPI indexes (Consumer Price Index). CPI increased 6.31% and PPI increased 31.59 %, for a composite increase of 8.34%. The FY09 budgeted increase was 4%, to \$2,522,396. With the 8.34% fee adjustment the total cost is \$2,627,657, leaving a difference of \$105,261. WTPB wanted the AFC to know that it may need to request a transfer of funds.

Ms. Lucas reported that the additional funding requested by the School Committee in the draft warrant was higher than expected. She will speak with Dr. Towle to get more specific information.

Mr. Linnane has met with Derek Saari about Article 12, Non-Zoning Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The State Bylaw provides a model which each town is then able to use to amend their town bylaws as needed for their specific town. Mr. Linnane feels this is a well-thought bylaw. It will not affect individual homeowners but does affect large new development which would affect downstream runoff. Mr. Arnold requested a map of the areas in town affected by this bylaw. Ms. Lown pointed out that the article will make the town able to take cumulative affects of development into account. Mr. Meachen asked if there was a cost to the town. The Committee will ask Mr. Saari to confirm that the bylaw will provide a means for the town to pass costs on to permit applicants. Ms. Lown added that this article addresses many areas of concern that the committee expressed about the Stormwater Runoff Article from the 2008 ATM.

Mr. Meachen has scheduled a meeting with Kathy Wilfert of the Personnel Board.

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

Ms. Lown requested any committee member interested in attending the Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting (being held this year on November 1) let her know soon so she can complete the registration.

Ms. Lown pointed committee members to an article in folders from the Massachusetts Municipal Association about Question 1 on the November ballot for income tax repeal.

Ms. Lown reported that the town financial team has been investigating the GASB 45 accounting standards and regulations. The deadline for compliance is coming up in the next year and the Town will be ready. There is a definite incentive to towns to fund retirements in advance rather than pay-as-you-go.

Mr. Watts reminded viewers and committee members about the Cultural Council coupon fundraiser at the Chateau restaurant this evening. For each diner who brings in a coupon from the Cultural Council, the restaurant will donate 25% of the food and beverage proceeds to the Cultural Council.

Mr. Watts also announced that he would be passing on the task of adjourning meetings to Ms. Lucas.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:55 p.m. Ms. Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous, 8 in favor and 8 present.