

FINANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Robert Wynne, Secretary, Barbara Flavin, Members, Karin Chavis, Jan Twombly, Councilors, Larry Powers, Russell Sanford, Nick DelVento. Absent, Michael Herbert.

Purpose of the meeting: take a final review of the Town Manager's Budget and vote a recommendation for the Town Council.

Fire Chief Flanagan attended the meeting and spoke in favor increasing the funding of his Personnel line item budget immediately, for the salary of 3 additional fire fighters. The Town Manager's budget includes funding the positions but adding them later in the fiscal year, which requires less money in the Fire Dept. Budget. The Chief explained his rationale:

The additional funding will allow the hiring of a third Firefighter sooner than planned. This hire is a fully trained officer and will not need the Fire Training Academy saving the Department this expense. The Department will hire two new firefighters and train them as dispatchers. They will fill the dispatcher role during the summer, while they wait to attend the Fire Training Academy in the fall. This will save on the Overtime Budget, especially in the summer months during the vacations season. The current dispatchers will be allowed to take fire fighter shifts. The Union is in favor of this process.

The initial request was to increase the Fire department Personnel line item by \$43,210. This amount was reduced by the Fire Chief to \$35,000, after further discussion on the timing of the new hires.

Councilor Larry Powers spoke in favor of increasing the funding to the Fire Department's FY11 Budget, supporting the Chief's position.

Motion to amend the Fire Department Budget, Personnel line item, by \$35,000 made by Barbara Flavin, Seconded by Karin Chavis.

Voted: to amend the Fire Department Budget by \$35,000 for a new total of \$2,259,594.
Vote: Unanimous in the Affirmative.

In order to bring the budget into a balanced position, \$35,000 has to be taken from another budget to offset the additional funds added to the Fire Department budget.

Motion to reduce the Town Council Reserve Fund line item by \$35,000 made by Bob Wynne, Seconded by Russ Sanford.

Voted: to reduce the Town Council budget by \$35,000 and to take the reduction from the Reserve Fund Line item. **Vote: Unanimous in the Affirmative.**

Human Services: A correction in a sub-total was necessary: amend the amount from \$317,331 to \$304,489; the change doesn't impact the total Budget line.

Water Enterprise Fund Budget – Discussion that the Water Budget be increased by \$38,000 without impacting the water rates was discussed. The committee was unsure of how this would impact the water rates. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Council for further consideration.

Motion to recommend the Town Manager's budget with the two amendments voted earlier made by Nick DelVento, Seconded by Jan Twombly.

Voted: to recommend the Town Managers Budget, as amended. Vote: **Unanimous in the Affirmative**

It was also discussed and agreed that the budget report should reference the Water Department budget issue and ask the Council to review the matter further.

Meeting adjourned: 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted:
Barbara Flavin.
Secretary