

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 11, 2010

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee room, Town Hall with the following members present: L. Donovan, R. Knobel, L. Pitman, D. Burke, M. Gallivan, M. Kent, S. Connell, M. Boragine, T. Bowen, P. Stasiukevicius 8:15 p.m. T. Jalkut Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton, and Finance Director M. Good.

7:30 p.m. – Called to order by the Vice – Chairman S. Connell.

Town Administrator's Update

Discussion will be ongoing on the limited funds that are available, news from the State is very contradictory. Governor's budget is built on assumptions. Stimulus money hasn't arrived, if revenues don't pick up we will be in same situation as this year. Legislatures might have a local aid number available in March. January numbers aren't out yet. He feels there will be some reductions, but doesn't anticipate it will be substantial, unless things totally fall apart. He has the number for a 10% cut, it would be positions, not expenses. It would amount to \$360,000 and would be devastating. . If it is a 15% cut, he would have to shut buildings, he is trying not to send the message out yet, only creates problems that might not be necessary.

February 23, West Suburban will set the health budget numbers, budget is increased 4.5%, If there is any money left in additional health insurance line, he recommends leaving it there till we know what the state aid numbers are. .

Personnel – Analysis has been done on a 10 year intervals. Total population in 1980 was 18,460, now 24,311, clerical union is down positions to 14 from 18, DPW is down to 38 from 52, library is down positions to 9 from 11. Numbers are also down on police and fire. He doesn't know what the School Department numbers are.

Mr. Boynton spoke to setting up a joint meeting of 15 communities on March 1, for a discussion on regionalizing/combing various jobs/departments. Some department's to be discussed are: Veterans Agent/Animal Control Officer is retiring in August. Town is faced with the potential of hiring a full time Veteran's Officer. Town presently has a waiver for the Veterans Agent requirement, that the position be full time. Position also calls for the agent to be a veteran. He does not feel Walpole would receive another waiver. Some towns do share a full time agent. MMA has been trying to change it but have only been successful in getting a regional district. He feels it is best to have a regional/district approach. He spends 30 to 40% of his time on Veterans issues. (15 hours) Another issue is that the Town does not have a kennel. Dogs have been

historically housed in dog officers house. He would like join in with another Town that has an existing kennel.

Health Agent – Could have a regional agency that does the enforcement. Towns would consolidate services.

Engineering – share some services with other towns.

Library –We are building a new library, Westwood is looking into building one, possibly partner with them, this should be looked into.

Collections – centralize them.

Schools – feels good conversation could take place for the sharing of some of the services.

Board of Selectmen appear to be in favor of this regionalizing. Union contracts would be an issue.

Plowing – He has approached the state to take over the plowing Rte 1-A. Town only now plows the center of town. He has not heard back from them.

8:15 p.m. – Committee Chairman T. Jalkut took over the chairing of the meeting.

Capital Budget Appointment

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by S. Connell to have the Finance Committee designee to the Capital Budget Committee be Carol Lane, Motion Approved, Unanimous (11-0-0) (11 voting)

May 3, 2010 Warrant Review

Mr. Boynton recapped the 31 articles in the May 3, 2010 Spring Annual Town Meeting. Board of Selectmen have closed the warrant, and it will be signed at the February 23, Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Recreation – Discussion ensued on status of Recreation Department, Board of Selectmen are committed to operating pools, budget is losing money, now is the time to look at it. Rates need to increased, but most of the problem is due to the present economy.

Pay Increases – Future discussion to be held on 3% cost of living adjustment for non-union personnel

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MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by S. Connell to approve the October 19, 2009 minutes Motion Approved (9-0-2) (L. Donovan, M. Boragine abstained) (11 voting)

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by P. Stasiukevicius to approve the December 14, 2009 minutes, Motion Approved (9-0-2) (M. Boragine, T. Jalkut abstained) (11 voting)

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by P. Stasiukevicius to approve the October 15, 2009 Minutes, Motion Approved (8-0-3) (L. Pitman, M. Boragine, and R. Knobel abstained) (11 voting)

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Thursday, February 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk