

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 6, 2009

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town hall with the following members T. Jalkut, M. Kent, L. Donovan, J. Stasiukevicius, R. Knobel, M. Hickey, J. Muti, T. Bowen, M. Barry, M. Gallivan, J. Stadtler, S. Connell, and C. Lane Also present was Town Administrator M. Boynton and Finance Director M. Good

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman T. Jalkut.

Capital Budget Committee – Present was Assistant Town Administrator J. Johnson, FinCom Representative C. Lane, Members W. Abbott, M. Cominsky and during the discussion Fire Chief T. Bailey, Police Chief R. Stillman, Water and Sewer Superintendent R. Mattson, Town Engineer, M. Walker, Building Maintenance Superintendent D. Anderson and DPW Director R. O'Brien.

Capital Articles

Article 7 – Water Department Equipment Replacement - \$270,000 for a backhoe, pick up and half of engineering pick up, and a utility truck.

Article 10 – Capital Infrastructure Improvements, \$60,000 Blackburn Hall Fire Prevention Sprinklers, \$20,000 Parks Department tree removal, \$30,000 roof snow guards, \$5,000 Fisher School gym floor evaluation, \$40,000 various roof repairs, \$15,000 system wide painting and \$20,000 light sensors (Green initiative), and \$30,000 Field Improvements Total \$220,000 Free Cash.

Committee raised questions on doing the study of the Fisher School gym. Town Administrators spoke to needing to know what the problem is, it is a safety issue. Problem appears to be caused by moisture below the field. Recreation is unable to rent it out due to the condition and causes problems during voting.

Article 11 – Capital Equipment Purchase - \$18,000 Board of Assessor's Computer, \$200,000 Fire Department replacement of ambulance, \$10,000 Summer St. Tower Antennas, \$14,000, voting satellite radio receivers (2), \$135,000 Vehicle Maintenance - replace dump truck #202, \$14,000 replace pick up truck #730, \$150,000 School Department for leasing system wide computers Total for Article 11 - \$541,000, from various funding sources

FinCom Members spoke to concerns with spending \$135,000 to replace a dump truck, when it could possibly save a budget (personnel). Town Administrator spoke to another dump truck due to be replaced next year and the money won't be available for either one, if this is put off.

School Department computer leasing - \$150,000 is required to be paid as the computers were leased in the amount of \$450,000 to be spread over a three year timeframe. Capital Budget Committee understands the need for these computers by the School Department.

Article 12– Streets & Sidewalk Improvements

\$30,000 catch basin repairs, Total Article 12, \$30,000 from Free Cash.

Article 13 – Street Improvement Borrowing

\$200,000 for a proposed list of streets for milling and overlay, level and overlay and crack seal, Total for Article 13, \$200,000 by Borrowing

Article 14 - – Water Borrowing

\$760,000 E. J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant Rehab Phase I, (to be done in two phases)
Article 14, \$760,000 by Borrowing

Total requested for Capital Budget Articles this year is \$2,021,000 (\$270,000 Water Retained Earnings, \$760,000 Water Borrowing, \$200,000 Ambulance Revolving, \$573,000 Free Cash, \$200,000 General Fund Borrowing and \$18,000 Overlay Account)

Discussion on Non-Completed Capital Project – Assistant Town Administrator provides Capital Budget Committee with a list of unspent monies, Committee questions why they weren't done and if the funds are still necessary. It was explained that for the majority of the people, it is a timing issue, and get a reasonable response and ask if the money is going to be turned back.

Chief Stillman was what the issue was with the ATV not being used, problem is manpower.

East Walpole Community Center – Unspent monies are being held due to the Finance Committee putting a hold on them, there was not vote to release the hold and move it somewhere else.

Capital Articles

Article 7 – Water Department Equipment Replacement

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Connell for Favorable Action on Article 7 in the amount of \$270,000 for Equipment Replacement, Motion Approved (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 10 – Capital Infrastructure Improvements

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by M. Gallivan for Favorable Action in the amount of \$220,000 from Free Cash, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Committee discussed the issue of the \$5,000 for the study of the floor at the Fisher School, and whether it would be better to put the money towards fixing the floor instead of doing another study, and look into bidding the project to include as part of the bid, the problem and solution in the price. . Floor has been temporarily fixed in the past and it hasn't worked. Town Administrator spoke to not having an answer to the problem, need to understanding the problem and that is why they are requesting a study.

Article 11 – Capital Equipment

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by M. Barry for Favorable Action on Article 11 in the amount of \$541,000 to be funded as follows \$323,000 from Free Cash, \$200,000 from the Ambulance Fund and \$18,000 from Overlay Surplus, Motion Approved (12-1-0) (J. Stadler opposed) (13 voting)

Article 12 – Street and Sidewalk Improvements

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by P. Stasiukevicius for Favorable Action on Article 12 in the amount of \$30,000 to be funded from Free Cash, Motion Approved (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 13 – Street Improvements

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by M. Gallivan for Favorable Action on Article 13 in the amount of \$200,000 to be funded by Borrowing for various street improvements as listed in Capital Budget Report, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 14 – Delaney Treatment Plant

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by J. Stadler for Favorable Action on Article 14, in the amount of \$760,000 to be funded from Water Borrowing for improvements to the E. J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 11 – Capital Equipment

Committee discussed increasing Article 11 by \$17,600 to include the live scan electronic fingerprinting machine. Members felt that this was the next most important item on the Capital Budget. Funds to be taken out of the improvements to the East Walpole Community Center, previously approved in prior year's articles and listed under non-completed projects, unspent money was to do improvements to fix the side room on the first floor. Town Administrator spoke to the windows having already been purchased for this project, he will try to finish the project under Building Maintenance Budget.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by J. Muti for Reconsideration of Article 11, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by J. Muti for Favorable Action to increase Article 11 in the amount of \$17,600 and funding to come from unexpended Capital Projects for East Walpole Community Center, Spring Town Meeting Articles - 1,300,2006/Art.13, \$1,300 2007/Art.13 and \$15,000 2008/Art.13, Total funding for Article 11 in the amount of \$558,600 from the following fund sources - \$323,000 Free Cash, \$200,000, Ambulance Fund, \$18,000 Overlay Surplus, \$1,300 Article 13, SATM, \$1300, Art.13, 2007 SATM, \$15,000 Art.13, 2008 SATM, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Fire Department Ambulance, \$200,000 is available for the purchase of the new ambulance, Committee questioned whether this amount could include the Fire Department Pagers in the amount of \$22,500. Town Administrator felt that that the \$200,000 would be adequate for the ambulance and pagers when it is put out to bid.

MOTION MADE by M. Gallivan, Seconded by R. Knobel to include the notation under the Fire Department Equipment/ambulance with the additional wording to include pagers (ambulance/pagers), Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 4 – Prior Year's Unpaid Bills

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by J. Stadler for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Approved, Unanimous (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 5 – FY09 Budget Adjustments

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by T. Bowen that \$659,833 be appropriated by transferring \$535,000 from Free Cash, and \$124,833 from the Debt Reserve Stabilization Fund and reduce the FY2009 appropriations by \$201,265 in the amount of \$126,265 from Health Insurance Expenses (#01914) and \$75,000 from Reserve Fund (01132), Motion Approved, Unanimous (13-0-0) (13 voting)

Article 7 – Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by T. Bowen to approve the FY2010 Water Department Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$4,035,405 for Personnel Services \$821,886. Expenses, \$1,456,226, Debt Service, \$1,487,293 and \$270,000 Capital Outlay and that the \$4,035,405 be raised by \$3,248,573 User Fees, \$270,000 Retained Earnings and \$516,832 Misc. Receipts & MWPAT, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 – Sewer Department Enterprise Fund

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by T. Bowen to approve the FY2010 Sewer Department Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$3,879,392 - Personnel Services \$209,717, Expenses \$3,329,161, Debt Service \$340,514 and that the \$3,879,392 be raised by \$3,635,185 from User Fees, \$244,207 from Misc. Receipts, Motion Approved (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 9 – Stabilization Fund

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Connell for No Action on Article 9, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 15 – Equipment Leasing

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Connell for No Action on Article 15, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 16 – Grant Matches

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by M. Barry for No Action on Article 16, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 17 – Revolving Funds

Held – pending further detail to be provided by the Finance Director.

Article 18 – Collector’s Fees

Proposing Demand Fees be increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00, Law allows for an increase up to \$30.00, but it was too late to change the warrant to up the fees. Committee requested that this be brought back in the Fall for a change.

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by T. Bowen for Favorable Action on Article 18 with the proviso that this article be brought back at the 2009 Fall Town Meeting to increase the demand fees, Motion Approved, (12-1-0) (T. Jalkut opposed) (13 voting)

Article 19 – Real Estate Tax Exemption

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by T. Bowen for Favorable Action on Article 19, Motion Approved (12-0-1) (C. Lane abstained) (13 voting)

Article 20 – Assessment Certification Program

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by M. Gallivan for Favorable Action on Article 20 by transferring \$60,000 from Overlay Surplus for the Board of Assessors State Mandated Assessment Certification program, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 21 – Property Tax Deferment/Circuit Breaker Program

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by T. Bowen for Favorable Action on Article 21, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 22 – Library Contract

Negotiations ongoing.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by M. Barry for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 22, Motion Approved, Unanimous (13-0-0) (13 voting)

Article 23 – Firefighter’s Contract

Negotiations ongoing.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by J. Stadtler for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Approved, Unanimous (13-0-0) (13 voting)

Article 24 – Library Facility

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Connell for Favorable Action on Article 24 for the new library facility in the amount of \$6,200,000 by Borrowing and passage of the 2 ½ Override, Motion Approved, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

It was noted that the total amount requested has been reduced but the contribution anticipated to be received from the Board of Library Commissioners are not anticipated to be reduced.

FY2010 Budgets

FinCom to vote budgets on Thursday, April 9, 2009.

9:20 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk