

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 10, 2008

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: T. Jalkut, S. Connell, L. Donovan, S. Kelliher, C. Lane, J. Stadtler, R. Knobel, T. Bowen, J. Muti, and M. Gallivan. Also in attendance was Assistant Town Administrator J. Johnson and Finance Director M. Good.

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

Council on Aging/B. Coghlan, Director

Director Coghlan spoke to taking this opportunity to update the Committee on what the Council on Aging is currently doing and what their future plans are: 2007 – 4642 residents over age 60, 2007, there were 2329 elders receiving services or attending program at the COA. In addition there were 268 non-elders served/need based programs.

Programs have continued to grow, they have instituted nine additional programs to the Council's activities in addition to expanding others, added two additional shopping days per month. They are presently down one vehicle which makes it difficult. They have received funding from Department of Transportation for a new van, this will be at no cost to the Town. They have received \$48,720 in Grant Funds, requiring a match of \$12,182, which will be funded by the Friends of Council on Aging. Hopefully receive the van by the end of May. This has to be done on a State bid process.

Grants are one of the sources they use for revenues and are working regionally to secure grants, and hopefully this will help with additional programs/funding. They have received from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs grants for staff training and fitness programs.

Council services two distinct populations, homebound that depend upon transportation and outreach services, and another group having specialized and individual programs such as personal trainer, nutritionist, and services for diabetics. Department is doing well in obtaining Grants. They offer a work off program for property tax relief, have a very active Veterans Organization meeting once a month and usually have a minimum of 40 people and it is educational and social.

Top concerns of the Council are health care, property tax and transportation. Services of the Ride require a medical condition to qualify. This is public transportation. Hessco has a contract with cab company, that will sometimes take people to Boston (\$35.00) They

provide information to the seniors in a newsletter, booklet on transportation policies, property tax relief and promote the Circuit Breaker Program.

Council's biggest issue is office staff, don't have clerical help to provide assistance, they rely on volunteers.

Articles 21, 22 – Town By-law Codification

Speaking to these articles was R. Fucile, Town Clerk and Herb Meyers of General Code

J. Johnson provided the committee with background on these articles, \$11,500 appropriated to codify the Town bylaws in Spring, 2006. Purpose is to collect and organize all Walpole's ordinances of a general and permanent nature into a numbered and stylized document that is easy-to-read and easy to access. This will eventually be on the Town's website.

Article 21 deals with voting to renumber and accept revisions to the General Bylaws, including Charter, Administrative Bylaws, Personnel Bylaws and Regulatory Bylaws. Board of Health Regulations and Town Meeting Rules of Conduct.. The Zoning Bylaws to be added at a future date. Discussion ensued that the Rules and Regulations of the Zoning and Planning Boards would not be included. Committee felt they are public documents, they are the Town of Walpole's regulations and should be included and Committee understood that everything would be included. This is suppose to be a tool, and it is less valuable if you have to go to different places. Concerns were expressed that committee have public documents and not wanting them to be included. J. Johnson felt that this could be done in the Fall Town Meeting. Board of Selectmen's Policies and Procedures are also not being included. Zoning and Planning should be where they could be looked up as easily as possible, it should be expected that it be there.

Article 22 – References MGL in a consistent manner and wording of certain descriptive words and other minor changes. Town Clerk will recommend that a Bylaw Study Committee be put in place, he will speak to the Moderator, this is handled through Town Meeting.

Committee discussed that this codification will include the hiring of an ongoing service, format what we want to include and they will modify and monitor all changes. Cost would be from \$800 to \$12000 every year to update these changes, could be done electronically or send changes to firm. This fee will be included in the Town Clerk's Budget starting in FY10. It is felt that the annual maintenance charge is worthwhile and need to keep the document updated.

J. Johnson will check with Town Counsel if Rules and Regulations haven't been accepted by Town Meeting, do they have to go to Town Meeting.

Article 21/Bylaw Revisions Renumbering

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by L. Donovan for Favorable Action on Article 21, Motion Approved, (8-1-1) (T. Bowen opposed, M. Gallivan abstained) (10 voting)

Article 22/Bylaws Global Changes

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by J. Stadler for Favorable Action, Motion Approved, (8-1-1) (T. Bowen opposed, M. Gallivan abstained) (10 voting)

Articles

Article 5 FY08 Budget Adjustment

\$51,144 being requested \$18,080 Fire department expenses for a firefighters injury that was not covered and \$33,064 for Casualty Insurance Expresses as worker's compensation costs were higher than projected

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by J. Stadler for Favorable Action in the amount of \$51,144 from the FY08 Employee Fringe Benefits Account, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 6 – FY09 Budgets

This article had previously voted in the amount of \$63,586,986, but the \$15,000 for the Capital Reserve/Stabilization Transfer had not been taken out.(Article 7)

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by J. Stadler for Reconsideration of Article 6, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

MOTION MADE by S. Connell, Seconded by R. Knobel for Favorable Action on Article 6 in the amount of \$63,571,986 with recommended funding, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 8 – Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Kelliher for Favorable Action on the Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$3,839,154. with recommended funding from user fees, retained earnings and miscellaneous receipts and MWPAT. Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 9 – Sewer Enterprise Funds

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Connell, for Favorable Action on the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$3,886,480 with recommended funding from user fees, retained earnings and miscellaneous receipts. Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 12 – Snow and Ice Deficit

\$458,000 appears to be the final number, pending any unforeseen snowstorms.

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by S. Connell for Favorable Action in the amount of \$458,000 to be funded in the amount of \$200,000 from Overlay Surplus, \$39,144 from Free Cash and \$218,856 from FY08 Employee Fringe Benefits, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 20 – Revolving Funds

Turco Field Maintenance Fund, recommended by Town Accountant, user fees to be used directly and spend for the maintenance of Turco Field. This will be administered by R. LeBlanc, Supervisor of Parks, not recreation. J. Cole, Recreation Director, will help with the scheduling. User Fees are \$75.00 for town groups and \$150 for out of towners. Fees are going to be before the Selectmen next month. Funds are needed to maintain this field.

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by M. Gallivan for Favorable Action on Article 20, Revolving Funds Authorization, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)
MM C. Lane, seconded M. Gallivan, (10-0-0)

Article 25 – DPW Contract

It is not anticipated that the contract will be settled prior to Town Meeting Negotiations have not been scheduled till after Town Meeting.

Police negotiations are scheduled for April 22, 2008.

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by J. Stadler for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Articles 30 – 34 – Economic Development Committee

Scheduled to meet with Finance Committee on April 14, 2008

Article 43 –Zoning By-laws/Parking Regulations

Planning Board Hearing on this article scheduled for April 17, 2008.

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by C. Lane for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 43, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 45 – Zoning Bylaw/Age Qualified

FinCom discussed this article at their meeting of March 31, 2008

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Kelliher for Favorable Action on Article 45, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 44 – Zoning Bylaw/Baker St.

S. Connell, Vice Chairman took over the chairing the meeting. FinCom discussed this article at their meeting of April 3, 2008.

MOTION MADE by J. Stadtler, Seconded by R. Knobel for No Action on Article 44, Motion Approved (9-0-1) (T. Jalkut abstained) (10 voting)

Minutes

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by J. Stadtler for Favorable Action on the Minutes of April 7, 2008, Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

MOTION MADE by R. Knobel, Seconded by S. Kelliher to adjourn at 9:20 p.m., Motion Approved, Unanimous (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Secretary