

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 11, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112 with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Burke, J. Denneen, M. Kent, S. Lawson, D. Bruce, C. Lane, M. Iwanowicz, D. Crowley, S. Ahmed, J. McDermott, J. Lowre, T. Williams, and 7:40 p.m. P. Hinton. Absent was D. DiCenso. Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and Fire Chief T. Bailey

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

May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Council on Aging Budget –Town Administrator updated the Committee on filling the position of Council on Aging Director. Position had been offered to a candidate but she decided against leaving her present position. Hopefully they will be able to fill this position quickly and get it resolved. Field of candidates for the position was excellent, but the challenging issues were the salary and the facilities available

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Council on Aging Budget in the amount of \$171,566 Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting)

7:40 p.m. – Committee Member P. Hinton.

Reserve Fund Transfer - Veterans Benefits

Veterans Director Jon Cogan spoke to this request for \$13,000. He, explained that the need for these additional funds was due to the amount of younger veterans collecting benefits. Younger veterans stay on the roll for only a few months but the older veterans stay on longer. Most veterans leaving the military are told to see their local agent when they come out and most veterans file a claim. They come in for financial assistance, counseling or assistance in moving in the right direction. Balance in Reserve Fund as of March 11, 2013 is \$71,875.50. These funds are 75% reimbursable from the State, but the money doesn't come in till next year on the Cherry Sheet and goes into the General Fund. It is approximately a two year delay to receive the reimbursement.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by P. Hinton for Favorable Action on the Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$13,000 for Veterans Benefits, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting)

Veterans Budget

Mr. Cogan provided additional details on the Veterans Budget and explained that it is a difficult to know how many veterans would be applying for benefits. Town does receive some reimbursement for some items. Communities with a population of over 12,000 are required to have a full time Veterans' Agent. Town has been unsuccessful in sharing the position with another community. He works mostly on the State level. Costs are going up and with lifetime care requirements.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Veterans Budget in the amount of \$103,035, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting)

Board of Health

Health Agent R. Chapell spoke to this Budget. She provided to the Committee a list of Roles, Responsibilities and Accomplishments of the Board of Health for FY2013. She is seeking a new position for a part time inspector for 18 hours, position will not be eligible for benefits. Position will do inspections of restaurants, food review plans and help out with committee work. Contractors do about 7 inspection per month, deputy health inspector does the septic inspections, reviews engineerings plans. Department does inspections for farm animals every year. They have two revolving accounts i.e. compost bins and flu clinics for seniors, and obtain Medicare information and health plans for reimbursement from Federal Government. This money goes to the Council on Aging for health related items. Tobacco Control Enforcement is contracted out to individuals from other communities in order to make sure no Walpole kids are not breaking the law in Walpole. They try to get a grant for this program. Compliance rates are better when doing the checks.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Board of Health Budget in the amount of \$297,911, Motion Passed (13-0-1) (S. Ahmed abstained) (14 voting)

Solid Waste - Ms. Chapell explained that this is the second year of a five year program. Estimated contract price for solid waste and recycling collections for FY14 is \$910,500. representing a 1.6% increase from FY13. FY14 Budget, fuel adjustment charge of \$30,000. Disposal of newspapers is down due to newspapers now being on line.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Solid Waste Budget in the amount of \$1,611,873, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) (Unanimous)

Landfill Maintenance – Town Administrator spoke not requesting any money for this budget, but wants to leave it in , should the State require further improvements at a future date.

Article 32 – Temporary Moratorium of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

Present for discussion on this article was Police Chief R. Stillman, Deputy Police Chief J. Carmichael and Health Agent R. Chapell. It was explained to the Committee that the voters in the Commonwealth approved a ballot measure in November, 2012 allowing a change in the law making use of medically prescribed marijuana within the State , but also now provides for the creation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries across the State. Selectmen, in conjunction with the Walpole Coalition for Drugs and Alcohol Awareness has been reviewing the provisions of the new law and, and drafting local regulations and by-laws regarding these types of facilities. They feel it is necessary to adhere to the law and promulgate local rules and laws in the interest of public safety. They spoke to it being premature to take any action at this time to allow dispensaries until regulations by the State are promulgated. A year postponement allows for a thought out plan and the need to learn from other states that have similar laws, and allows the Town to come up with solid regulations. We need to know how to regulate. Area would have to be zoned and area would have to be established where a dispensary is located. Law went into effect on January 1 but there have been no regulations in place yet. Department of Public Health is required to come up with regulations by May 1 and review process has to be in place by May 1. Pharmacies have control drugs. One dispensary is required to be in each County. Consensus is that the Attorney General will not allow a ban on this but feels that to defer action on this is reasonable in order to get everything in place.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on Article 32, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Article 33 – Restriction on Marijuana Public Use & Consumption

This is to amend the Town's By-laws for the restriction of marijuana use in a public way. This allows the Town to set parameters and gives extra enforcement to the Police Department and allow them to issue a citation, that would have to be paid ,(maximum amount would be \$300). This is similar to regulations in place for alcoholic consumption on a public way. This article has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on Article 33, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

DRAFT MOTIONS - Town Administrator spoke to these motions

Article 6 – Funding – Held with further adjustments due to snow and ice budget.

Article 9 – Previous Years Unpaid Bills

No Action recommended as there are no know outstanding bills at this time.

MOTION MADE by L. Pitman, Seconded by J. Denneen for No Action on Article 9, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Article 11 – Stabilization Fund

Town Administrator is not recommending any funds for this article this year.

MOTION MADE by J. McDermott, Seocnded by J. Denneen for No Action on Article 11, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Article 18 – Grant Match

\$12,900 being requested for an alert system for the Fire Department to tie into the Police Dispatch Center

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for \$12,900 from Free Cash for the 1013 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Article 30 – Pinebrook Subdivision Work

Town Accountant had previously recommended that the Committee hold action on this article to ensure that it needed to be on the Warrant. She has researched this article and recommends that the Committee vote on it.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on Article 30 in the amount of \$158,445.71, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Minutes of February 28, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-2) (P. Hinton, J. Lowre abstained) (14 voting)

Maguire Report

Committee to have a general discuss on the Maguire Report on Thursday, March 18, 2013 meeting. There is nothing specific on the Town Meeting Warrant that deals with this report.

Fisher School Tour

Scheduled for Friday, March 15,2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by L. Pitman, Seconded by J. Burke to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m., Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk