

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 11, 2013

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Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Burke, D. DiCenso, J. Denneen, S. Ahmed, M. Kent M. Iwanowicz, D. Crowley, D. Bruce, J. McDermott, T. Williams P. Hinton, and S. Lawson. 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. Pittman

May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Library - Speaking to this budget was Library Director S. Genovese, also in attendance were Library Trustees, H. Bergen, D. Wildnauer and M. Rudolph.

S. Genovese updated the Committee on the new library, community response to the building has been excellent.

Committee had questions on the amount of the increase of monies for the book budget to \$85,000 and whether this amount would be going forth every year. It is anticipated that it will probably increase over time as the Library is required to spend a certain percentage of the budget on books (15%), they have been supplementing this line item with state aid monies and other available funds, (trust funds and other streams of revenue). It is the responsibility of Library to make up a shortfall. This year they were short \$30,000.

Old Colony Network - communities share books, e-books and audio books.

Town Administrator spoke to the Library had previously had to obtain a waiver from the State for this budget when the budget had cutbacks. There is a need to review electricity costs and anticipates that there might be the need for adjustments. It is a challenge to budget utility costs for a new building and system. Any problems with the sub-contractors have been resolved. He feels that all the systems are up to speed and hopefully the funds that the Library had received through the Reserve Fund for utilities will be adequate to get them through for this year.

Trustee D. Wildnauer spoke to the first year costs for utilities was phenomenal, solar system didn't come on line till July, there were problems with lighting controls. Most of the items have been fixed, but some are ongoing. There is a one year warranty that expires the end of February.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Library Budget in the amount of \$792,981, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D.DiCenso) abstained) (13 voting)

Miscellaneous Budgets

Historical Commission – \$615 being requested, Budget includes \$300 for a clerk for the Commission and \$315 for expenses

Town Celebrations, \$1,500 for the town's contribution to the holiday lighting. None of the work is done by the town employees, it is provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

Trails Committee - \$500 requested to print new pamphlets and update the trail maps. This increase over previous years is anticipated to be for one time only. Trails Committee also works with the Town Forrest Committee.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke to approve the Historical Commission Budget in the amount of \$615, Town Celebrations Budget in the amount of \$1500 and Trails Committee in the amount of \$500, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Animal Control – Town Administrator spoke to there being a slight increase in this budget. Town now operates there own kennel, with the conversion of the old pump station on Norfolk Street. There is space for four or five dogs and a few cats. Former Animal Control Officer now acts as the Deputy Animal Control Officer and works one weekend a month and one night a week. He is paid an annual stipend of \$10,500 and is available 365 days. Animal Control truck is in good shape. Town Administrator would like to combine this budget with other communities and regionalize it.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on Animal Control Budget in the amount of \$65,166, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) (Unanimous)

Town Administrator's Update

Town Administrator spoke to the Emergency Operations Center worked well, it was very beneficial to the works that everyone was off the road, no one came into the shelter and no one lost power. He spoke to the excellent effort done by the DPW workers and staff. Excellent effort was made by the DPW and staff.

Ambulance Fund – \$856,457 is balance as of today. Town will be looking to purchase a new ambulance in FY2016 and funds will be coming out of this budget. This budget is also used to offset monies for the Fire Department Budget

Debt Schedule – Document provided to the Committee representing Excluded Debts, and projected projects. Town is applying for SBA reimbursement for some of the projects at the schools.

If any of the proposed projects are approved, it would take 12 months to do a full design, preparation of bidding documents and then out to bids. There is a savings in having one designer for multiple projects. It would take a minimum of 18 to 24 months for construction. Police and Senior Center would be built first, then Fire would move to old Police Station for temporary quarters while the ~~new~~ fire station is demolished, and Police Station would be gutted, and a link attached between police and fire station. Anticipated it would take five years to do it all.

School Sub-Committee – D. Crowley and S. Lawson are already meeting with the School Committee. If there is any interest in forming a sub-committee for other budgets, let the chairman know.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by M. Kent to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m., Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk