

January 31, 2012, Finance Committee Meeting
Butterick Bldg. Room 205

Attended by: Terri Ackerman, Bob Brown, Larry Pape, John Potter, Mike Rivers, Pat Fox, John Kilcoyne, Lisa Call and Frank Heinemann

Absent: Matt Emsley, Mike Murphy

Meeting began at 7:44 PM as a joint meeting with the Capital Committee. Larry communicated to the FinCom that the Capital Committee had hoped to make recommendations tonight, but are not ready to do so. Considering the economy, it wishes to be particularly planful and need more information from key individuals before voting on articles.

Joint meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes reviewed and approved for the following past FinCom meetings: November 8, 2011, December 20, 2011 and January 4, 2012.

Terri gave status reports. Capital at \$4,839,039.22 and this reflects all monies voted on during May's town meeting. Stabilization is \$779,924. Reserve fund is \$51,997. Many requests are coming in for reserve fund transfers and there is not enough available to grant all.

John Kilcoyne gave an update on the senior center building. After 6 to 7 months of researching, visiting senior centers of other towns and collecting data, recommendations were made to the BOS. Ultimately, the right people need to be on a building committee to decide the size needed. Usage data is being collected from senior center. John feels that six months worth should be enough. The Friends of the Senior Center has started to pursue fundraising. The goal is that the cost of the center will be 50% town funded and 50% donations. This is a lofty goal and depends on overall size. Discussed how decisions regarding the old town hall will impact residents' decision to support a senior center. Fear is that residents will not vote on either as it may seem costly.

Larry gave an update regarding recent decisions by the Personnel Board. It is attempting to address past issues. Amrith Kumar is sending a letter to Scanlon & Associates, (in the process of an audit) to be sure that key past behavior/policies are looked into. John made a motion for the FinCom to write a similar letter supporting this. It would cc the BOS, hoping for its support during the audit. Discussion followed regarding job descriptions/classifications which were created in 1997, by an outside firm. Should an outside firm be hired again? Will discuss further. Personnel Board also recommended the appointment of AnnMarie Belair and Jed Lindholm to its board. FinCom reviewed Jed's resume and voted to appoint him. FinCom had already met with AnnMarie, and voted to appoint her also. A motion was made, seconded and approved (5-0) that read, "motion to empower the Finance Committee Chairman, Larry Pape, to act on behalf of the Finance Committee on any actions related to the appointments of AnnMarie Belair and Jed Lindholm to positions on the Personnel Board at this week's Board of Selectman's meeting or any subsequent meeting on the matter of these appointments to the Personnel Board."

Liaison updates: Police noted that grants continue to dry up. Contract negotiations are on its third year. Discussed legal fees and how they are paid. Terri feels strongly that it should go to bid.

Budget books were distributed. A big thank you needs to go out to Ginger, a senior in town, for organizing and putting together the books this year.

Reviewed calendar of meetings. Terri urged us to be efficient and stay to the agenda. For the Feb. 7th meeting, FinCom does not need to meet with Planning, Conservation or Open Space. Members will review Library and Police and send questions to Larry by noon on Thursday.

Discussed WRSD's 'shared revenue' idea for funding its budget. Changes would need to be made to the regional agreement. This may be a good opportunity to address other needed changes to the agreement. Lisa will ask Sterling's school committee members to join us for a meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.