

Finance Committee Meeting, February 7, 2012

Butterick Building room 205

Attended by Mike Murphy, John Kilcoyne, Larry Pape, Matt Emsley, Bob Brown, Frank Heineman and Lisa Call.

Terri Ackerman

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Reviewed and approved past minutes (1/4/2012 and 1/31/2012).

Terri discussed reserve fund transfer request needed codifying town bi-laws. Past articles had monies for this and there is only \$97 in said appropriation. Terry had asked Dawn if the money could come from the town clerk budget and was told no. Could always do a transfer for the town clerk budget later if needed. Bob will talk to Dawn as the FinCom would like this to be funded through her budget.

Review calendar and article lists. Any questions regarding a department's budget needs to be given to Larry the Thursday before its scheduled meeting, by noon. Decided that ZBA, and Human Resources will not be needed to come in on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Larry will check with the Board of Health as to whether they need to come in. All scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> are needed.

Reviewed budget summary sheet. As is, the town portion of budget is up 2.3%, half of which is insurance. Though still a work in progress and should be lower.

Roland Nelson spoke regarding veteran's affairs. Article 46 (Active Reserve/Guard Personnel Tax deferment) The term 'tax forgiveness' is not defined well. Does it mean if someone is deployed for the fiscal year, part of fiscal year, could it overlap two fiscal years, but be deployed for less than a year? Will ask the assessors to look into this and to offer an opinion. Matt suggested that maybe the % of year deployed, would determine the % of tax forgiveness.

Pat Campbell and John Dwyer spoke regarding library budget and answered questions from FinCom. Differences include heating, its contract with the town. It is working with the personnel board regarding new contracts. Job description re-pointed and 3% assumption still needs approval from personnel. One error to budget is that Danielle's salary is in twice. Friends of the library are doing a number of fund raisers and cover cost of materials. Pat tries very hard to find funds elsewhere before looking for a reserve fund transfer. Discussed Charles Allen bequest. Pat is beginning to explore what to do with this. It is an unrestricted donation. Looking into town's investment policy. Could create a 501C foundation. Pat is gathering data and advice.

Gary Chamberlain discussed police budget, staying steady for the most part. His salary is per contract and some step increases. Oil reflects an increase in expenses even with this mild winter. Extra cost is an anticoagulant because of the outside tank. Noted the building is much better. The odor is gone.

Gary discussed Animal Control. Due to restrictive by-laws, unlikely to regionalize. Explained how an injured animal would be taken to Worcester Animal Rescue League when Louis is out.

Gary discussed dispatch. Wages are accurate, contract is set. Biggest expenses in phone bills. This includes phones for the town, wireless and computer terminals in cars. Maybe communications line could be lower. Gary will look into it. He also noted that there are fewer grants available.

Voted to support the approval of the following articles:

#3, to \$125,000

#49

#51

#52

Meetings scheduled for 2/14 are Capital at 6:00 and FinCom at 7:00.

2/15 is an executive session with the BOS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.