

Minutes of the Finance Committee for July 20, 2011

Held in the Fire Department meeting room

Members Present

James Law-Vice Chairman; Daniel Healy-Clerk; Peter Landon; Richard Liasse; Mark Barowsky; Edward (Ned) Steiger

Members Absent

Peter Greenberg-Chairman

Others in Attendance

Paul Pasterczyk-Finance Manager; Eric Madison-Fire Chief

Vice Chairman James Law called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Prior Meeting Minutes: The Minutes of the prior meeting not available for a vote.

Introduction of Peter Landon and Dan Healy as new Finance Committee board members

Reserve Fund request from Fire Department

Eric Madison was here to discuss the reserve fund request that was submitted in the amount \$9,000 to conduct a promotional exam to fill the vacant captains position in accordance with the recently approved collective bargaining agreement. It was proposed that, if approved, the money would be restored to the reserve fund at the next town meeting. Mr. Madison was asked if this request could wait until the next town meeting. He indicated that, according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, it had to be done “forthwith” in accordance with the agreement. A further discussion centered regarding the proper procedure for handling this type of request. A motion was made and seconded to approve the \$9,000 provided the Select Board put the \$9,000 on the next town meeting ballot. The motion passed by a 5 to 1 vote, with Mark Borowsky voting no.

FY 2011 and FY 2012

Paul Pasterczyk provided a brief update on the FY 2011 results of operations. General Fund revenues exceeding budget included Motor Vehicle Excise, Licenses & Permits and Other Departmental Revenues categories. Budgetary appropriations with large year end surpluses included Police and Fire salaries, Schools and Employee Benefits. Overall it was estimated that the FY 2012 Free Cash would be \$1.3 to 1.5 million . Mr. Pasterczyk reported the approved FY 12 State Budget’s net State Aid for Longmeadow was reduced by \$27,000 from prior estimates. The reduction was mainly attributable to a reduction in the Charter School reimbursement of \$16,500 and an increase in the School Choice Sending Tuition Assessment of \$10,000. Overall the FY 12 budget was out of balance by \$200K – the direct result of the June 22nd Special Town Meeting funding certain Town collective bargaining and wage settlements.

School Salary Settlements

The Finance Committee (FC) discussed the cost estimates of the recent School collective bargaining and wage settlements. The cost estimates included \$221,545 in collective bargaining and wage settlements along with \$34,606 in additional costs of other wage “adjustments”. Conversation referred to the discussion between the FC and School representatives at the previous FC meeting whereby the FC agreed to fund agreements approved prior to the Special Town Meeting (STM). The FC noted that just prior to the STM, they specifically voted not to recommend a higher amount than previously estimated by School officials. The FC also discussed the wording on their revised STM motion which read “to fund approved collective bargaining and wage settlements”. The general consensus was that no further action will be taken,

State Finance Committee Membership

Paul Pasterczyk presented an invoice for the State's Association of Town Finance Committees annual membership dues for FY12 in the amount of \$231. After discussion payment was approved by a 5 to 1 vote with Mark Borowsky voting no.

Other

Paul Pasterczyk distributed the Select Board's recently adopted "Request for Information Policy"

The next meeting was scheduled for August 17th 2011.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm