

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 PM in Rm. 014 of lower Town Hall. The following members were present: Ken Szajda, Jim Crews, Tom Meehan, Gordon Johnson, Mark Schultz, Jay Leary (8:15) and Pam Zicko (9:05).

Geoff Zeamer attended the meeting to explain the Reserve Fund transfer that the Planning Board is requesting. He explained that the Planning Board had gone through extensive efforts to try to work with the builder. There have been many complaints from residents of the development. FinComm asked Geoff if the amount of the bond covers the cost to finish the project. He said that it would cover almost all. It does not cover the attorney fees. Tom Meehan asked about the homeowners' responsibilities. The Planning Board had released the lots and agreed to the plan presented, for the roads, etc. Jim Crews asked if there were any other big issues that could come up and was told that there may be some big issues with a Fafard development. Jay Leary commented that once property is purchased by a developer, there needs to be better communication between town boards. There is no performance standard in Holliston. The Planning Board is the board that approves the development as the plans are laid out. Mark Schultz commented that the Planning Board needs to work towards a better road design plan for developments. Jay Leary said that Holliston Boards need to talk to Carolyn Dykema – towns should not have to pay to enforce the bonds issued with projects. Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve a transfer in the amount of \$1275 from the Reserve Fund to the Planning Board, org. # 01172, legal, obj. #52190. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Jay Leary, made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009. Passed 6-0-0.

Ken Szajda told FinComm members that on Feb. 16th a bill will be passed by the legislature to fix local aide for FY11 and the town should have a number. Ken Szajda had made a spreadsheet that incorporated revenue assumptions, including local receipts, except water. There was about a \$46,000 deficit. Ken asked Paul if there was any feedback from the dept. head meeting on Friday and Paul said that everyone was very "quiet". There were some questions about salaries. Scenario A is the wage increase with the -5; and scenario B is a flat cut. At a 10% cut in local aid it would be a net cut of about 2%; at -12%, it would be a net cut of about 2.5%. Ken said that he will clean up and send out the spreadsheet with wages worked into it. Tom Meehan is concerned with rising insurance costs and wants the budgets to be cut 2.5-3%.

Ken said that he would make a draft of the budget review schedule. FinComm members exchanged telephone numbers.

At 9:50 PM, Gordon Johnson, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Antonioli, Secretary

Date Approved: February 9, 2010