

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present: Ken Szajda, Jay Leary, Jim Crews, Tom Meehan, Gordon Johnson and Mark Schultz. Pam Zicko was absent.

Jay Leary, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 8, 2009 as amended. Passed 6-0-0.

Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve a bill submitted by Faith Antonioli for meetings and minutes for the month of December, totaling 8.75 hrs. Passed 6-0-0.

There is \$44,000 left in the Snow & Ice budget. The Planning Board had submitted a Reserve Fund transfer request in the amount of \$1275 for a subdivision surety. FinComm questioned how much money needed to be expended to get the money back and what amount would come back. Paul LeBeau said that the developer had blown past many deadlines. The \$1275 is needed for legal expenses because the developer is trying to block the town from getting the bond funds. Jay Leary commented that the FinComm should have gotten a heads-up on the situation. Mark Schultz (liaison to the Planning Board) is going to ask Geoff Zeamer to attend the next FinComm meeting to discuss future costs that may be associated with this. FinComm will wait until their next meeting to act on the Reserve Fund request.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the FY11 budget. The state is portraying a scenario that looks like things are improving. Mark Schultz said that he is now comfortable going to a budget based on a 10% reduction in state aide, which translates into - 4 to 5% for depts. The BOS is not having budget reviews until after the Governor's budget is released at the end of Jan. Because of the lateness of this, Jay Leary offered 2 suggestions - either change the order of reviews (leaving the depts. that go through the BOS until the end) or double up the meetings each week until caught up. The issue of the 3% wage increase is still out there. Jay said that legally if you fund a 3% increase in the first year of a contract, you're obligated to finish it out - unless the union agrees otherwise. When publishing guidelines, should they give each dept. a number, instead of the -5% with the 3% wage increase. Jim Crews figured out the difference between -5% + 3% and the -2.78% across the board. Jim showed members the figures and it made very little difference. The depts. that ended up with more were those that are heavy in the personnel area. Paul LeBeau suggested that FinComm talk it out with the schools. Tom Meehan asked how much time is needed to talk to unions before changes can be made. They need to get a guideline out. FinComm unanimously agreed to go with the 10% local aide scenario. They then discussed which of the 2 options to go with: 1- flat -2.79% or 2-cut 5% and add 3% back for wages. After discussion, they asked Paul to tell Dept. heads at their meeting on Friday to start preparing their budgets at -3% - take last years number and cut it 3%. Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a

MOTION to recommend to depts. and boards a preliminary -3% net budget guideline for FY11. Passed 6-0-0.

At 9:20 PM, Jim Crews, seconded by Gordon Johnson, made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faith Antonioli, Secretary

Date Approved: 1/26/10