

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen’s Meeting of Town Hall. The following members were present: Ken Szajda, Jay Leary, Tom Meehan, Gordon Johnson, Jim Crews, Mark Schultz and Pam Zicko (arr. 8:25).

Jay Leary, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 30, 2010. Passed 5-0-1(G. Johnson abs).

Ken Szajda summarized the budget presentations, etc for the FY11 budget so far. The FinComm heard -2% and -3% budget presentations from most depts. except the schools. FinComm plans to change the guideline to -.75% and there are 2 ways they can proceed. They can compute the number of each dept. at a -.75% guideline and vote the number or vote a non-uniform number for various depts. Under the current scenario, a -4% cut in state aid and the reduction in the Keefe budget leaves a \$50,000 surplus to put towards 9C cuts. FinComm members were asked how they wanted to proceed: Tom Meehan said to do the -.75% for all depts.; Jim Crews agreed with the -.75% but thought there should be some discussion regarding a couple of depts. that may not need money restored (i.e. Planning Board & ConComm); Gordon Johnson said that -.75% in aggregate is where we need to be, but wants to discuss each budget separately. He also wants the School Committee to approach the teachers – there needs to be consistency in wages; Mark Schultz said that there needs to be discussions about different depts.’ needs, but philosophically, it should be even across the board; Jay Leary would like to keep all at the same rate. Vote the number at -.75%, but deal with specific issues. The consensus of the FinComm was to use the -.75% as the starting point for each dept. budget. Ken Szajda said that they don’t know wage information with any of the bargaining units and contractual obligations. If talks are unsuccessful between the town and the bargaining units, the town can impose uniformity across depts. by keeping the wage table the same as 2010; those depts. who gave a wage increase would have to impose furloughs. FinComm members supported a recommendation to take the wage table from 2010 and adopt it for 2011. They agreed to start with a -.75% guideline, with a 0 wage increase. If there is an override, it needs to be mindful of areas with inadequacies.

The following budgets were voted on at a -.75% guideline:

A motion was made to recommend funding the FY11 budgets as follows:

<u>Dept</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>1st Motion</u>	<u>2nd Motion</u>	<u>Vote</u>
BOS	397,047	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	6-0-0
Accountant	78,037	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	6-0-0
Assessors	179,273	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	6-0-0
Reserve Fund	235,000	Gordon Johnson	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Technology	86,323	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
(Office supplies cut – may want to look at later)				
Town Clerk	119,364	Gordon Johnson	Tom Meehan	7-0-0
(Losing a person, closing 1 or 2 afternoons – may want to look at later)				
Elections	24,134	Mark Schultz	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Conservation	42,523	Gordon Johnson	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
(More enforcement issues, fewer projects – Paul thinks it’s sustainable for now Jim Crews would like to keep it on the list.)				

<u>Dept</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>1st Motion</u>	<u>2nd Motion</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Planning Board	69,988	Jay Leary	Tom Meehan	7-0-0
(\$3058 over guideline – part of combined deal with ZBA & Building)				
ZBA	10,588	Jay Leary	Tom Meehan	7-0-0
(\$748 over guideline – part of combined deal with Planning & Building)				
Public Buildings	131,899	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Police	2,236,254	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	6-0-1(G. Johnson, abs.)

(MUNIS figure is \$2,500,533 with 3% inc. for union)

Aux. Police	10,280	Mark Schultz	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Fire Dept.	611,062	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Bldg. Inspector	129,208	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
(\$4041 below guideline)				
Sealer	1,000	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
(revolving fund covers all but \$1000)				
Emer. Mgmt.	9,364	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Animal Control	38,359	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Schools	26,633,526	Gordon Johnson	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Keefe	337,852	Gordon Johnson	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
Highway	1,104,312	Pam Zicko	Gordon Johnson	6-1-0

(P. Zicko, no)

(Jim Crews said that Tom Smith said he could meet last year's services with -2% & a 3% "cola". Jay Leary said capital budget has been hit. Note for possible adjustment.)

Street Lighting	70,716	Pam Zicko	Mark Schultz	
Motion to amend				
Street Lighting	70,000	Mark Schultz	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Wastewater Treat.	66,803	Gordon Johnson	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Motor V. Fuels	109,175	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
BOH	119,874	Mark Schultz	Tom Meehan	7-0-0
COA	149,292	Mark Schultz	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Youth & Fam.	104,935	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
(needs \$3100 to keep services level-funded)				
Veterans	17,729	Pam Zicko	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
Library	407,756	Mark Schultz	Jay Leary	7-0-0
(put on list for possible add-ons)				
Parks & Rec.	87,918	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
(may consider later)				
Snow & Ice	200,000	Gordon Johnson	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
Solid Waste	1,035,213	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
Group Ins.	4,574,708	Gordon Johnson	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Benefits	1,650,397	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
(adding money saved from disabilities to unemployment ins. - \$55,693)				
Debt Service	5,716,549	Jay Leary	Mark Schultz	7-0-0
Water Dept.	2,042,339	Mark Schultz	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Ambulance	306,649	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
Capital Fund	350,000	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0

<u>Dept</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>1st Motion</u>	<u>2nd Motion</u>	<u>Vote</u>
FinComm	1,611	Jay Leary	Gordon Johnson	7-0-0
		(wanted to send out reminders about town meeting – but too costly)		
Treasurer/Coll.	274,911	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0

With the assumptions used and the budgets as voted, there is a surplus of \$120,054. This can be left for 9C cuts or used to supplement certain budgets (about \$100,000). There are several budgets that could be cut further. Money should be put back for services, not salary increases.

Jay Leary asked Will McColl, representing the BOS, what their budget concerns are:

Treasurer/Coll., Town Clerk, Auxiliary Police, Parks, Schools and Library.

Jay Leary, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider the FY11 budgets voted on for the Water Dept. and the Ambulance. Passed 7-0-0. Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY11 budget of \$2,226,165 for the Water Dept. Passed 7-0-0. Gordon Johnson, seconded by Jay Leary, made a MOTION to recommend an FY11 budget of \$353,850 for the Ambulance. Passed 7-0-0.

Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to reconsider the Highway Dept. FY11 budget. Passed 7-0-0. Gordon Johnson, seconded by Jay Leary, made a MOTION to recommend an FY11 budget of \$1,104,103 for the Highway Dept. Passed 7-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider the Auxiliary Police FY11 budget. Passed 7-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend an FY11 budget of \$12,280 for the Auxiliary Police. Passed 7-0-0.

At this point, there is a surplus of \$118,054, which can be used for 9C cuts. Jay Leary asked Paul LeBeau if it could be put into the Reserve Fund, as 9C cuts are not “unanticipated”. Paul thought it could be problematic. Stabilization would be better.

FinComm voted on the Warrant articles as follows:

Art. 2 – Pam Zicko, seconded by Gordon Johnson, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 2, the report of the Finance Committee. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 5 – Jay Leary, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting on Art. 5, the compensation plan. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 6 – Jay Leary, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting on Art. 6, payment of late bills. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 7 – Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend indefinite postponement of Art. 7. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 9 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 9. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 10 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Gordon Johnson, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 10, the continuation of revolving accounts. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 11- Mark Schultz, seconded by Jay Leary, recommended unfavorable action on Art. 11, the creation of an inoculation revolving account in the amount of \$16,000 for the BOH. Passed 1-6-0. (Mark Schultz –yes). Jay Leary, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 12 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 12, the creation of a revolving account, not to exceed \$5000, to cover expenses for passports in the Town Clerk’s office. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 15 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 15, to impose a trash fee not to exceed \$170.00. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 16 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 16, the omnibus budget. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 17 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend indefinite postponement on Art. 17, capital. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 18 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting on Art. 18, the CPC. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 19 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor at Town Meeting on Art. 19, Stabilization Fund. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 20 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend indefinite postponement on Art. 20. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 21 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 21, contingent on the receipt of a state grant and subsequent matching funds from a qualified non-public, non-profit entity. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 22, 23, 24, & 25 – Gordon Johnson made a MOTION to recommend from the floor at Town Meeting and then withdrew the motion. FinComm members wanted the dollar amount attached to each article – 22: 1.5 million; 23: ½ million; 24: 50,000; 25: 1.5 million for well 7. There has been communication with the Army Corps of Engineers and they are prepared to draw up a 5 yr. lease in about 45 days, based on an evaluation of the value of the land and water. Jay Leary, seconded by Gordon Johnson, made a MOTION to make recommendations from the floor at Town Meeting on Arts. 22-25. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 30 – Gordon Johnson, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend unfavorable action on Art. 30. Passed 7-0-0.

Art. 31 – Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 31, the Water Dept. selling scrap water meters. Passed 7-0-0.

FinComm then discussed money needed for an override if the question were put on the ballot. Some areas mentioned were firemen stipends, \$100,000 for Highway capital, \$10,400 for Treasure/Coll., \$1000 for Town Clerk, \$10,600 for the Library times 1.16, totaling \$12,390 and possibly lifeguards for Parks. This totals \$12,390.

Next Tuesday's meeting will be with the schools and BOS. At 11:45 PM, Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Antonioli, Secretary

Date Approved: May 4, 2010