

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MARCH 13, 2012**

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, Michelle Zeamer, Pam Zicko Kathleen White, Tom Meehan and Mark Schultz.

Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 14, 2012. Passed 6-0-0.

Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve payment of a bill submitted by Faith Antonioli, totaling 2.5 hrs. for meetings and minutes for the week ending March 3, 2012.

Dennis Ferreira presented the budget and discussed the May Town Meeting articles for the Water Dept. He discussed the hand out which contained a list of projects being done and those to be done. He said that their master plan is affected by the budgetary constraints. Dennis said that they have worked out the details with the Army Corps of Engineers to enter into a long term agreement, with a 7 year renewable lease. The Corps cannot enter into a lease for any longer than 7 years at a time. He explained that well #2 is considered abandoned and has become well #8 (it has been moved over at the same Maple Street location); it is up and running and came in under budget. Concerning the new treatment process going in at well #4, the Water Dept. is waiting for an okay from the DEP and hopes to go out to bid by March 16, with bids due back by the end of April. If this goes on schedule, Water would have a number for Town Meeting. Ken Szajda asked if this new treatment process can handle higher levels than those being found in testing now and was told that it could. At this time, well #4 is not pumping; it is on standby. Wells #2 &3 are offline. Well #7 needs to come on line and they are hoping to have it up and running by the fall – it will go out to bid in May and should be a quick project once it starts. There are several other projects that have had to be put on hold, many dealing with the water pressure in specific areas, such as Turner Rd., Kuniholm Industrial Park and the Oak St. area. The water main replacement is another very large project. The Water Dept. is having a study done at the end of the month which will look at about 1 ½ miles of pipe (1/4 mile sections) in various areas of town, focusing on the oldest pipes and cement pipes. The study, through a non-invasive process, can determine how much the pipes have deteriorated and if they are wearing from outside to inside or inside to outside. It will also be able to read the thickness of the pipe. Michelle Zeamer asked what the replacement pipes would be made of and was told either ductile (iron) pipes or PVC. Dennis Ferreira then went through the Articles for Town Meeting. In Art. 1, the Water Dept. is looking for an easement from Mohawk Path and Mayflower Landing to well #6, because the roads need to be accepted by the town and that has not happened yet. There is no money associated with this article except \$500 for legal fees. Art. 2 is asking for \$40,000 to purchase a new vehicle as a replacement. Ken Szajda asked that they should get a more definitive number from the state bid list and know what they are going to purchase. Art. 3 is requesting to move money from old articles (2006-2008) and put it towards upgrades at the treatment plant to use as a contingency. If it is

not needed, it will go back into water surplus. Art.4 is asking for extra money for Professional Services for the lease fee for well # 7 and money for the extra sampling that is being required at well #6. This does not need to be an article; they are looking to supplement their operating budget and this can be done at the end of the fiscal year when money can be moved from one line to another. Art. 5 is requesting to take the \$225,000 surplus from well #2 and put it towards a contingency for well #7 when it goes out to bid. Tom Meehan asked if they are following the master plan and Dennis said that they are as best they can. Things are constantly changing and new mandates come up all the time, taking money from other projects. FinComm asked Dennis if could come up with a list of unfunded mandates that come up the last few years. Ron Sharpin presented the budget, which is above the guideline due to debt service and benefits. He said it was divided into 2 sections: the non-discretionary which is above the guideline and the discretionary, which is within the guideline at 1.4%. The dept. has some concerns coming up. They will need to keep personnel at well #4 all the time so they will need to utilize this person for other functions to be performed from that site. Michelle Zeamer asked why workmen's comp was up so much, but was told that the number comes from Paul LeBeau. Ron also reported that liens and delinquent payments are up. In 2013, the meter project will be paid off. He also handed out 2 sheets, each with a different scenario with the end results being the difference going into water surplus.

At 9:10 PM, Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faith Antonioli, Secretary

Date Approved: March 27, 2012