

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MARCH 29, 2011**

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, Gordon Johnson, Pam Zicko, Mark Schultz, Tom Meehan and Jim Crews (arr. 7:35).

Gordon Johnson, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 15, 2011. Passed 5-0-1(T. Meehan abs.)

Ken Szajda said that FinComm would proceed to do an initial vote on the FY12 budgets. The numbers voted would either be the guideline figure or the lower amount if that was presented by the dept.

The following budgets were voted as listed below:

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Motion</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Motion</u>	<u>Vote</u>
BOS	\$ 396,139	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
FinComm	1,500	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Town Acct.	78,037	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Assessors	179,273	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Treasurer/Coll	282,402	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Reserve Fund	235,000	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Technology	90,323	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Town Clerk	119,364	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Elections	16,810	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Conservation Comm	42,523	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Planning Board	69,984	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
ZBA	10,588	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Public Bldgs.	131,899	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Police	2,236,254	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	6-0-1
				(G. Johnson abs.)
Aux. Police	12,280	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Fire	611,062	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Bldg. Inspector	125,208	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Sealer-Wgts/Meas	1,000	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Emer. Management	9,364	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Animal Control	38,359	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Schools	27,435,054	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Keefe Tech	382,414	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Highway	1,178,887	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Street Lighting	66,000	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Wastewater	66,734	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Motor Vehicle Fuels	109,175	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	0-7-0

FinComm discussed if that is a realistic number given the rising cost of gas and diesel fuel. Town paid \$2.67 gal.(gas) and \$3.02 gal(diesel) in Jan. and it is probably higher

now. FinComm agreed that they should take money from the Reserve Fund and put it into the Motor Vehicle Fuel account.

Motor Vehicle Fuels	140,000	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
BOH	119,874	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
COA	149,292	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Youth & Family	105,868	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Veteran Services	17,728	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Library	429,719	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Parks	87,918	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Snow & Ice	200,000	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Solid Waste	1,039,182	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Group Insurance	4,792,010	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Benefits	1,758,596	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Debt Service	5,539,509	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
Water	2,385,796	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
*Budget up due to increased debt service - \$140,000 of budget is debt service				
Ambulance	376,515	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0
*Budget increase of \$23,000 – 500 accts. & 520 accts. increased				
Jay Leary, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to amend the Reserve Fund budget. Passed 7-0-0.				
Reserve Fund	204,175	Jay Leary	Pam Zicko	7-0-0

With the budget voted in at this evening’s meeting, there is a \$75,003 deficit.

Paul LeBeau said that the warrant should be available to the public by April 30<sup>th</sup>; FinComm can make adjustments to the budget until April 26<sup>th</sup> and should have the House II budget before then. Jim Crews questioned that the Snow & Ice budget may not be realistic and FinComm had discussed increasing it to \$225,000 at a prior meeting. Mark Schultz expressed concern with the fact that they are starting out running a deficit. Ken Szajda agreed with Jim about the Snow & Ice but pointed out that the deficit is built into the budget and would like to wait to see how things play out. Pam Zicko is concerned with COA and if they will cut services because of not adding hours to the staff. Mark Schultz said that other town employees are working more hours than being paid for and that the timing is bad for adding hours. Ken Szajda said they need to look at some type of trash fees for seniors who can afford to pay it. He said that he has a philosophical problem with seniors’ trash fees going directly to seniors; but agrees that it is a way to get some additional revenue for the town. Gordon Johnson expressed concern that if you build money from trash fee into the budget, you don’t know what will happen because there will be 2 new selectmen after the election and their feelings on a trash fee for seniors is unknown. But other FinComm members pointed out that it’s true with the existing trash fee in general.

The FinComm then spent considerable time going through the pages of last year’s finance report for spring town meeting. They discussed each page and each chart, graph, etc. They decided to limit the past years shown in charts and pages to no more than 10 years. They also discussed where to place the 4 pages that Bill Dowd has asked them to

include. Jay Leary commented that he thought the FinComm should give a thorough and longer than usual summary of the budget at Town Meeting. Mark Schultz disagreed and said he thought it should be a concise and transparent summary. Ken Szajda agreed that it should be kept brief at Town Meeting, but said that he would like to present a detailed summary on cable before Town Meeting.

At 10:09, Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faith Antonioli, Secretary

Date Approved: April 12, 2011