

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 10, 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, Tom Meehan, Kathleen White, Pam Zicko, Michelle Zeamer and Mark Schultz.

Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to approve payment of a bill submitted by Faith Antonioli for meetings and minutes totaling 2hrs. for the week ending March 31, 2012.

MOTIONS were made to accept the following FY13 budgets as listed below:

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>1st Motion</u>	<u>2nd Motion</u>	<u>Vote</u>
BOS	\$ 402,067	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
FinComm	1,522	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Town Acct.	79,208	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
BOA	181,962	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Treas/Collector	291,003	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Reserve Fund	212,675	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Technology	91,678	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Town Clerk	121,778	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Elections	26,058	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Planning Board	71,034	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
ZBA	10,579	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Public Buildings	211,692	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Aux. Police	12,464	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Sealer	1,000	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Animal Control	38,359	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Keefe Tech	554,869	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Highway	1,196,570	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Street Lighting	66,990	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Wastewater	67,735	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Motor Veh. Fuel	142,100	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Youth & Family	108,979	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Veterans	35,783	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Parks & Recs	89,913	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Snow & Ice	250,000	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Solid Waste	1,051,679	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Group Insurance	4,422,113	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Benefits	1,718,323	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0
Debt Service	5,705,525	Tom Meehan	Mark Schultz	6-0-0

The Building Inspector's budget came in under guideline but was above guideline for salary increases. Tom Meehan said that they should wait for the results of the compensation/benefits study before increasing salaries. Mark Schultz said that the Dept.

is trying to restructure the clerical position and add hours, which he has no problem with; but Peter Tartakoff's salary should be held to the guideline. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$123,984 for the Building Inspector. Passed 6-0-0. This is \$3,102 below the guideline budget of \$127,086.

With the Fire, Ambulance and Emergency Management budgets, FinComm is waiting for the Chief to come back to them with budgets showing the true breakdown/division of operating costs between Fire and Ambulance – even if over the guideline. \$6906 can be deducted from health costs in the Ambulance budget.

The library is over the guideline by \$1820 because of the rent-to-own phone service which is under Communications. They are hoping to get the Friends of the Library to pay this. FinComm needs to check the status with Leslie McDonnell.

The ConComm is over budget by \$2400 because they want to increase the salary of the Conservation agent. It would equal a 10% raise. FinComm wants to wait for results of the compensation study. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$43,161 for the ConComm. Passed 6-0-0.

The COA came in at guideline - \$192,620, which is made up largely of personnel. A wish list budget was presented which included an additional outreach person. The wish list, which was made up of all personnel, would put the COA above the guideline. COA had added \$4903 to the present outreach worker's pay, which reflects an increase in hours, not an increase in pay. They are asking for an additional \$1100 for Building & Grounds, which would put them over the guideline. Ken Szajda wants to know what this money is for. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$167,771 for the COA. Passed 6-0-0. This is the guideline budget. The BOH is over guideline, with the money being in extra clerical, with a step increase and a move up in the fall. It is \$784 off, with an increase in hours and a step, being \$35,302. They want to increase the hours to take minutes at meetings. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$122,921 for the BOH. Passed 6-0-0. This is \$680 below the guideline.

The Water Dept guideline budget is \$2,416,254. The budget is on guideline except for the debt service, which is up 11%. The budget will decrease in FY14 because the meter project will be paid off. It can be reduced by \$12,645 because that is the insurance savings for the Water Dept. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$2,527,640 for the Water Dept. Passed 6-0-0.

The Police budget meets the guideline, but there is a known possibility of overtime issues. This part of the budget is underfunded. The change in designation the Police are looking for should be put off until the compensation study is complete and they have a cost benefit analysis over hiring a new officer or overtime. Mark Schultz commented that hiring 2 civilian dispatchers should put 2 officers back. This could help with the overtime issues. Tom Meehan, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$2,269,798 for the Police Dept. Passed 6-0-0.

FinComm discussed the School budget and said that they don't have the money to do much with the gap. SPED costs are up \$500,000 and this is an unfunded mandate. There is the potential for additional money in the foundation budget. This is where 70% of the gap is. FinComm hopes to have the House 2 numbers by April 24th. Mark Schultz said

that the ARA money has to be backed out and suggested deferring the vote on the School budget until April 24th.

FinComm still has the Schools, Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Management and the Library budgets to vote on. They are planning to have an open forum on May 1 so residents can ask any questions they may have prior to Town Meeting.

FinComm plans to meet next Tuesday, but it will not be televised.

At 10:10 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: May 1, 2012