

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**APRIL 24, 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, Mark Schultz, Tom Meehan, Pam Zicko, Kathleen White and Michelle Zeamer.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Kathleen White, made a MOTION to approve a bill submitted by Faith Antonioli for meetings and minutes totaling 7 hours, for the weeks ending 4/14/12 and 4/21/12. Passed 6-0-0.

Ken Szajda reported that he had received the revised budget for Fire and Ambulance, which is reflective of which dept. incurred which expenses. While discussing the OPEB allocation to the Ambulance, they talked about how to handle it in other depts. Should they back-charge others or just report it for informational purposes. They could charge it into the Ambulance and Water Depts. but keep it as a separate line item in other budgets. It was also noted that health care is about 76% of the total benefits package.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$644,947 for the Fire Dept. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$10,364 for Emergency Management. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$14,521 for the Ambulance. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to reconsider the FY13 Water Dept. budget voted on at a previous meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$2,536,390 for the Water Dept. Passed 6-0-0.

Questions were raised as to how the town will get the money allocated for OPEB from the Ambulance and Water budgets.

Ken Szajda gave a brief update of budget numbers. State charges have decreased \$50,000. He also reported that there is \$94,000 left from Snow & Ice in FY12. This can be used to pay late bills and to pay the additional overtime requested by the Police Dept. for this year.

FinComm then discussed the School budget. Dr. Jackson gave FinComm members a handout showing out of district SPED costs with figures showing a 5 yr. history and a 2 yr. budget. There is a \$500,000 increase from FY12 to FY13, with no reimbursement until FY14. Dr. Jackson pointed out that the reimbursement comes the year following the SPED expense. Of the \$512,000, they should see \$136,000 next year. He also explained that when a single student's SPED costs are more than 4 times the per pupil cost, the town is reimbursed. Tom Meehan questioned if SPED could be removed from the budget and dealt with as a separate entity for budgetary guidelines, etc. Ken Szajda said that \$28,663,815 is the closest they could get. That would be giving all extra money to the schools. Ken said that the gym floor is a separate issue – it's a \$236,000 capital request. Ken Szajda asked FinComm members their opinion on giving all surplus money to the

schools. Tom Meehan said that he was not comfortable with giving all the money to the schools and draining the rest of the town depts. Mark Schultz said that he agreed with Tom. Pam Zicko said that she was concerned with not giving the schools what they needed and wanted to know the affects if denied. FinComm discussed giving the Schools \$28,314,438 which would be the guideline plus the net difference in SPED. Michelle Zeamer's concern is that if you give them the lower number of \$28,314,438, more fees and burdens will be added to the parents, so she suggested \$28,500,000. Kathleen White feels they should give the schools an amount somewhere in the middle between the \$28,663,815 and \$28,314,438. Tom Jones said that in order to meet the lower number, it would be a mix of fees or service cuts. He said that the School Committee is concerned that fees fall on the schools and no other departments in town. Ken Szajda commented that many departments are charging the most that they can in fees. Tom Jones mentioned the trash fee and felt that there should be need based exemption only. Additional revenues at this time that were not figured into the original guideline number are: \$94,000 in Snow & Ice, \$50,000 in state receipts and \$233,464 in Chapter 70 funds to the schools. There is also about \$500,000 savings in insurance costs to the town. With \$28,314,438 as the number, and adding \$233, 464 for Chap. 70, there is still a gap of \$416,000. Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$28,314,438 for the Schools. After a lengthy discussion, the motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0. (The 'no's were K. Szajda, M. Schultz, M. Zeamer and K. White.) Kathleen White said she would like to see the number closer to the \$28,314,438. Mark Schultz asked what is left on other dept.'s wish lists. The police are looking for \$40,000 - \$50,000 for overtime; ConComm was looking for money to increase the salary for the conservation agent. FinComm also discussed how to handle the capital request for the gym floor at Adams. Michelle Zeamer, seconded by Mark Schultz made a MOTION to recommend an FY13 budget of \$28,500,000 for the Schools. Passed 4-2-0. (The "no's" were P. Zicko & T. Meehan.)

FinComm then discussed several changes to the warrant message and then voted on several warrant articles.

Art 20 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 20 (formerly Art. 17). Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to recommend the town raise and appropriate \$486,000 for the purpose stated in the Article. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 6 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 6. Passed 6-0-0. Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to appropriate from available funds a sum of \$11,011.05 for unpaid bills from prior years. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 7- Mark Schultz, seconded by Kathleen White, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 7. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Kathleen White, made a MOTION for the town to appropriate \$51,598 from available funds to the Police budget (line 51000) and appropriate \$20,000 from Water Surplus to the Water budget (line 54000). Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 11 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Kathleen White, made a MOTION to recommend favorable action on Art. 11, establishment of a COA revolving fund. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 17 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 17. Passed 6-0-0. Pam Zicko, seconded by Mark Schultz, made a MOTION to appropriate

\$236,000 from the capital expenditure for repairs to the gym floor at the Adams School. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 18 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to make a recommendation from the floor of Town Meeting on the Community Preservation budget. Passed 6-0-0.

Art 19 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 19. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$486,479 for the Stabilization Fund. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 22 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 22. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend that the town appropriate from available funds a sum of \$5000 for the purpose stated in the article. Passed 6-0-0. This is for the senior citizen tax work off program.

Art. 23 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend the town appropriate from available funds the sum of \$2000 for the purpose stated in the article. Passed 6-0-0. This is for the mandated conversion of police radios.

Art. 25 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Tom Meehan, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 25. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend the town appropriate \$250.00 from Water Surplus for securing an easement at Mohawk Path and Mayflower Landing. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 26 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 26. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Kathleen White, made a MOTION to recommend the transfer of \$230,000 from the appropriation under Art. 23 of the Warrant from the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Art. 27 – Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider Art. 27. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to recommend \$101,698.67 be transferred from previous Town Meeting appropriations for the purpose of this article as follows: \$37,755.96 from Art. 30 of the Warrant of 2006 Annual Town Meeting; \$5,998.11 from Art. 38 of the Warrant of 2007 Annual Town Meeting; \$20,844.95 from Art. 26 of the Warrant of 2008 Annual Town Meeting; \$10,000 from Art. 27 of the Warrant for 2008 Annual Town Meeting; and \$27,099.65 from Art. 11 of the Warrant for the Oct. 27, 2008 Special Town Meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to reconsider the Police Dept. FY13 budget. Passed 6-0-0. Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to increase the FY13 Police budget to \$2,294,798. Passed 6-0-0.

At 10:30 PM, Mark Schultz, seconded by Pam Zicko, made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faith Antonioli. Secretary

Date Approved: June 26, 2012