

DRAFT

Finance Committee North Reading Town Hall, Room 5 Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Present: Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano, Mr. Kelliher, Mr. Pulver (7:15), Mr. Koppelman and Mr. Duffy

Absent: Mr. Wolpin

Guest: Ms. Pavao, Finance Director

Chair opened the meeting at 7:05pm.

Minutes

Mr. Duffy moved, seconded by Mr. Veneziano to approve the minutes for February 20, 2013; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hurlbut moved, seconded by Mr. Kelliher to approve the minutes for February 25, 2013; and it was voted 4-0-1, Mr. Duffy abstained.

Mr. Kelliher moved, seconded by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes for February 27, 2013; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Veneziano moved, seconded by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes for March 6, 2013; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Koppelman spoke on the concerns of IT brought up at the Board of Selectmen Meeting. He suggested using open source licensing. Ms. Pavao said that MUNIS is the financial system used and MUNIS is not an open source. Ms. Pavao will ask the IT Administrator about it. Mr. Koppelman suggested looking into Open Office.

Department Budgets

Emergency Management – Members questioned the amount in purchase of services. Ms. Pavao said that is Mr. Kuliopulos', (the head of the department) stipend.

Code Enforcement – The stipends for travel were discussed.

Board of Health – The funding and expenses of the Revolving Fund were discussed. Ms. Pavao said receipts from Medicare should be in by March & June.

Elder Services – Members questioned whether any repairs and maintenance had been done on their van. Ms. Pavao said those items may be reflected in Vehicle Supplies. Veterans – this budget was reviewed on Saturday and Mr. Pulver outlined, for those not in attendance, what happened. The Agent has requested and been given several reserve fund transfers. The budget will be reviewed to see what amount could stabilize the dept. The Finance Committee promised to save \$40,000 at a previous reserve fund transfer request.

Library – The Library is requesting \$10,000 for increased hours for the head of circulation. Ms. Hurlbut explained that once the town reaches 15,000 citizens, which could be in a year or so, more hours would be required by the Library. Mr. Koppelman stated his concerns and disappointment in the prior cutback in Library hours. He would choose to prioritize this. He would give the Library \$10,000 in lieu of other budget items.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to approve keeping an additional \$10,000 for additional hours in the Library. Mr. Kelliher seconded the motion; and it was voted 1-5-0, Mr. Koppelman in favor.

Parks & Recreation – Parks & Rec. is asking for an additional \$15,000 from the Town's general funds for additional summer help. Ms. Pavao said an Enterprise Fund should be self supported. Mr. Pulver noted that enrollment is down. Mr. Koppelman proposed that \$10,000 less from last year's budget be given to Parks & Rec. Ms. Pavao said that the Estimating Total Revenues for FY14 is \$416,701 and \$402,000 projected for FY13.

Mr. Kelliher moved to cap the Parks & Recreation contribution from the town at \$124,377, seconded by Mr. Duffy; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Community Planning – There was some discussion about the GIS position.

Mr. Pulver moved to not recommend keeping the GIS position. Mr. Veneziano seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Zoning Board of Appeals – no issues were raised.

Middle/High School project

Mr. Kelliher gave an update on the project. The contractor, Gilbane, has given a guaranteed price contract of \$101,452,133, to build the project the way it was envisioned with only some aesthetics taken out. Within the price is a contingency for \$4.5 Mil., \$122,652,133 for the owner's contingency, and an additional \$574,000, that the SSBC wants added into the owner's contingency, leaving a balance of \$15.5 Mil. The tax impact is \$39 per thousand or \$176 more per year for a \$450,000 house. Borrowing will be done later and the tax increase won't be in the tax bill until then. Mr. Kelliher said that if the override gets voted down, the project will have to be redesigned and they would have to amend the bids and there would be a delay on the project, costing \$400,000 per month. Mr. Kelliher cautioned that also to consider is the agreement with

the State and how the reimbursement amount could be reduced. Mr. Kelliher stated the cost would be greater if the override is voted down.

Mr. Kelliher moved to authorize the town to approve the additional funds needed for the Middle/High School project. Discussion: Mr. Koppelman asked that the FinCom take more time in reviewing projects in the future and make enough of a contingency increase that takes into account any errors that may come up. He said he does support the project. Mr. Kelliher said there was a \$5 Mil estimating error but the cost of the project is what the project costs. **Voted: 6-0.**

Mr. Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Mr. Pulver seconded: voted unanimously in favor.

Approved _____ Date _____