

Finance Committee
Minutes for April 20, 2011
Room 5

Present: Mr. Kelliher, Mr. Wolpin, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano, Mr. Blanchette Mr. Pulver and Ms. Hurlbut (7:15pm)

Absent: Mr. Mastascusa and Mr. Kirby

Guests: Mr. Balukonis and Mr. Tassone

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Minutes

Mr. Wolpin moved, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of March 2, 2011.

Mr. Wolpin moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of April 6, 2011.

Mr. Kelliher reported on the School Committee meeting attended last Monday (April 11, 2011). School Finance Director Carl Nelson presented the Schools plan to deal with the current budget (FY2012) shortfall. The plan presented suggested cuts to some of the programs and staff, including language and technology. Mr. Johnson commented that at the meeting Selectman Sean Delaney voiced that the cuts were unacceptable and to meet the budget needs the school union should step up and help the Town, possibly with concessions on health insurance costs.

Last week Mr. Kelliher and Ms. Hurlbut met with Superintendent Kathleen Willis, School Committee Chairman Mel Webster and Carl Nelson to review their budget. Talks included the need to upgrade PC's by lease or purchase. Mr. Balukonis commented that he would not want to finance the purchase through non exempt debt. Mr. Kelliher commented that the purchase or lease should be through the school's operating budget.

Mr. Kelliher reported on the Secondary School Committee. The State has approved Dorr Whitney Engineering to manage the project. They have been involved with this project from the start. Mr. Kelliher commented that they learned the Town may be entitled to 1% or 2 % additional reimbursement on the project because of our history of maintenance on buildings.

The Financial Planning Team met last week with Representative Brad Jones. Mr. Kelliher reported that they learned the House budget looks to be close to the Governor's. In reviewing future budget needs Mr. Balukonis mentioned that the Little School currently has only one working boiler. To replace the one that broke down will cost about \$250,000.

The Finance Committee Report for Town Meeting, drafted by Mr. Wolpin, was reviewed and edited. Sections on both the Water Enterprise, Stabilization Fund and Capital (Debt) Stabilization Fund were addressed. Mr. Kelliher summarized some of the members concerns that we and Mr. Tassone need to be consistent in wording of our reserve funds to prevent misunderstanding.

The Capital Improvement Policy was reviewed. Copies of the policy with a cover letter will be sent to both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. Ms. Hurlbut made a motion to accept the policy which was seconded by Mr. Wolpin and passed unanimously.

Warrant Articles for the June 6, 2011 Special Town Meeting

Article 1 - Placeholder (No action required)

Article 2 – Fund Retirement Obligations of \$55,000 for retirement costs (Chief Harris).

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted unanimously.

Article 3 – Authorize Town to raise and appropriate money to fund deficit (\$610,000) in the FY2011 Snow and Ice budget. (\$429,370 from free cash, \$180,630 from FEMA).

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted unanimously.

Article 4 – Transfer Funds to Capital Stabilization Fund (Vote at Town Meeting)

Warrant Articles for the June 6, 2011 Town Meeting

Article 1 - Select Town Officers (No action required)

Article 2 - Hear and Act on Reports (No action required)

Article 3 – Authorize Director of Public Works to Accept Easements (No action required)

Article 4 – Authorize Compensating Balance Agreements & Article 5 - Authorize Chapter 90

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Blanchard and voted unanimously

Article 6 – Rescind Bond Authorizations (Vote at Town Meeting)

Article 7 – Prior Year Bills (4,533.24 from free cash).

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Veneziano and voted unanimously

Article 8 – Operating Budget (Vote at Town Meeting)

**Article 9 – Capital Expenditures (boiler \$250,000, Road \$200,000, Technology \$83,000)
(Vote at Town Meeting)**

Article 10 - Fund Retirement Obligations (\$445,000 by raise and appropriate)

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted unanimously.

Article 11 – Retirement Trust Fund (pass over)

Article 12 – Solid Waste Stabilization Fund (\$114,588) (Vote at Town Meeting)

Article 13 – Money to Stabilization Fund (Vote at Town Meeting)

Article 14 – Fund Energy Conservation Projects (Phase 2) (Vote at Town Meeting)

Article 15 – Funds for Emergency Operations Center (\$8,000 raise and appropriate /grants)

Article 16 – Transfer Funds to Liability Trust Fund **(pass over)**

Article 17 –Establish Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted unanimously.

Article 18 – Reauthorize Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund **(pass over)**

Article 19 to 26 – Reauthorize Funds

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Veneziano and voted unanimously.

Article 27 – Easement Agreement to Elm Street Property **(Vote at Town Meeting)**

Article 28 – Rescind April 1987 Vote re Quinn Bill **(Vote at Town Meeting)**

Article 29 – Accept MGLChapter 32B Legislation re Health Insurance **(Vote at Town Meeting)**

Article 30 – Amend By -laws Chapter 23 re Animals

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted unanimously.

Article 31 – Amend By Laws Chapter 172 re Town Meeting

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Wolpin, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Tassone reviewed the most recent budget summary and noted changes in Financing Sources and Expenses.

Mr. Tassone requested a Reserve Fund Transfer for the Veteran's budget of \$5,000. They are currently over budget and additional transfers are expected for the following months.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to recommend, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2011 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Approved _____ Dated _____