

**Finance Committee
North Reading Town Hall, Room 5
Wednesday, September 5, 2012**

Present: Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano, Mr. Kelliher and Mr. Pulver

Absent: Mr. Wolpin and Mr. Duffy

Guest: Mr. Balukonis, Town Administrator, Ms. Pavao, Finance Director (7:30 pm) and Jonathan Koppleman

Chair brought the meeting to order at 7:25 PM

Mr. Balukonis reviewed the FY13 Budget Amendments (Rev. 9/4/12). Some of these items were put off because of lack of a quorum at the June Special Town Meeting. The Salary Pool was amended to add in \$40,000 in vacation buybacks. Mr. Pulver asked if buybacks were being phased out from employee contracts. Mr. Balukonis said that vacation and sick time will be phased out from new employee contracts.

Police cruisers are listed at \$82,280. Mr. Kelliher questioned whether 8 patrol cars are needed when only 6 are out at one time. Mr. Balukonis said that he supports continually cycling through cruisers by 2 in and 2 out. Mr. Kelliher asked Mr. Balukonis to find out why Police need 8 cruisers. Mr. Balukonis said that some go out for upgrades or repairs and officers cycle through the cars to even out the mileage. Ms. Hurlbut asked Mr. Balukonis if the Police are aware that they can only put unmarked cruisers in the Capital Budget. Mr. Kelliher said he would like some justification on why they need that many cruisers.

Ms. Pavao said that DOR is to visit September 11th and hopes to know free cash certification by September 17th.

Mr. Pulver moved to approve Article 3 – Amend FY13 Operating Budget. Mr. Kelliher seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Pulver wanted to note that \$432,408 of non-debt service has been added into the budget. **Voted: 0-5**

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelliher, and voted: 5-0.

Mr. Veneziano moved to recommend Article 2, Prior Year Bills at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and voted: 5-0.

Mr. Balukonis stated that he is not in favor of the Class A Pumper truck, priced at \$485,000. Mr. Pulver said the Chief said, at the Board of Selectmen's meeting, that the current truck is 29 years old and insurance could go up. It was also mentioned that grant money could come in. Mr. Balukonis said he would prefer to wait for results of the grant process. Mr. Balukonis said that it can only be bonded for 2 years.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 4, FY2013 Capital Improvement Plan at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano and voted: 5-0.

Mr. Kelliher moved to recommend Article 5, Fund FY2014 Property Revaluation, seconded by Mr. Pulver and voted 5-0.

Mr. Johnson moved to recommend Article 6, Appropriate Money to Stabilization Fund at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano and voted 5-0.

Mr. Kelliher moved to recommend Article 7, Transfer Funds to Debt Capital Stabilization Fund at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 8, Transfer Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 9, Fund Town Road Survey Services, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted 5-0

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 10, Fund Services Related to Water, Wastewater and Stormwater, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Johnson moved to recommend Article 11, Fund Building on the Common Parking Lot Expansion, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 12, Little School Retaining Wall Repair, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Veneziano moved to recommend Article 13, Improvements to Town Hall, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Veneziano moved to recommend Article 14, Fund Forest Management Plan, seconded by Mr. Kelliher, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 15, Acquire Land for High School Driveway Expansion, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to recommend Article 16, Acquire Land on Park and Haverhill Street, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Veneziano moved to recommend Article 17, Amend Code-Add General By-law Chapter 104, Article II – Local Fingerprint Submission Requirement for License Applicants, at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Pulver, and voted 5-0.

Mr. Pulver moved to not recommend Article 18, Establish Board of Health Clinic Revolving Account, seconded by Mr. Veneziano, and voted 5-0.

Ms. Hurlbut reiterated the committee's intention to work on closing out unused Revolving Funds. She scheduled March to review all the funds.

Mr. Balukonis advised members that the town got in \$59,000 from tax title property located on Railroad Ave. He said there are two other properties that the town is foreclosing on; one for \$61,500 and another one for possibly \$30,000.

Mr. Pulver moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and voted unanimously in favor.

Approved _____ dated _____