

Finance Committee Meeting

April 26, 2010

7:30 PM

Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

Present: Chairman, Wayne Graf; Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Jackie Desrochers; Michael Flaherty; Paul Helmreich; Lee Tarantino; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Robert Bouchard; Cheryl McFaun; Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the April 21, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers and Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. Police Department Budget Proposal for FY11 – Chief Brian Clark provided the FinCom with a budget summary, including both Personnel Services and Expenses. He also noted that grants received have decreased in the past couple of years and anticipates the same for the upcoming FY11.

Chief Clark explained that the FY11 proposed budget is \$71,316 over the FY10 budget. He noted that the proposed budget includes a 2% contractual pay increase for employees. Chief Clark stated that Personnel Services section of the proposed budget reflects an increase of \$69,613 over FY10 and the Expenses section reflects an increase of \$1,703 over FY10.

Chief Clark said that in order to level-fund the budget for FY11, there would need to be personnel cuts.

B. Fire Department/Emergency Management Budget Proposal for FY11 – Chief Richard Gomes provided the FinCom with budget summaries for each of the 3 departments he oversees, as follows:

1. **Emergency Management** – Chief Gomes stated that the total request for FY11 is \$6,250, which is level-funded from FY10.
2. **Fire Department** – Chief Gomes explained that the proposed budget for FY11 is a level-services budget. He mentioned that the budget includes anticipated contractual increases for all firefighters at a rate comparable to what other public safety departments are receiving. He noted that Overtime Pay is up for FY11, as will as Incentive Pay. Chief Gomes pointed out that the Expenses portion of the budget is up \$1,500 for FY11.
3. **Emergency Medical Services** – Chief Gomes stated that the proposed budget total for FY11 is the same as FY10. The total budget is \$79,200.

Chief Gomes said that if the Fire budget were to be **level-funded**, the Chartley Fire Station would have to be closed. He said that currently there are 7 firefighters on each shift. He said that 2 firefighters are on the Chartley engine, 2 are on the central engine, 2 on the ambulance, and 1 supervisor. If the budget were to be level-funded, that number would be reduced to 6 and that would leave the Chartley engine with only one firefighter. Chief Gomes said that it would not be permitted to happen because it is not safe. Chief Gomes stated that other things would be cut as well, if the budget were level-funded. He said that medical emergencies would have to given out to other agencies, and that not only would that mean less revenue to the town, but more importantly, it would mean delayed response times to emergencies.

Chief Gomes also mentioned that the Fire Department would have 7 requests for Capital Improvements for FY11.

III. Other Business

- A. Mr. Purcell stated that there would be job losses on the General Government side of the budget regardless of the final Local Aid number.
- B. Mr. Purcell distributed binders from Dr. Ansary outlining the proposed FY11 School Budget.
- C. Mr. Purcell distributed budget sheets to the FinCom members that include the proposed FY11 public safety budgets, as well as all proposed FY11 school budgets.
Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget account #306 (South Eastern Regional) in the amount of \$1,155,005. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**
Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget account #308 (Regional Agricultural) in the amount of \$27,489. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**
- D. Mr. Purcell handed out the new Annual Town Report to all Finance Committee members.
- E. Mr. Helmreich suggested that the FinCom, while going through the current budget process, remember that not only should Public Safety and Public Health be top priority, but that preserving Public Education is equally important to the well-being of the community. He stated that the FinCom should look at the budget as a whole, not as 2 separate budgets (general government and schools).

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2010 at 7:30pm. The School Department will be in attendance to present their FY11 budget.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous.
Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sara Lyons

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary