

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 1990



The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm.

Present: M. Brown, J. Desrocher, K. Eagan, M. Hackett,
P. Helmreich, B. Kimball, R. Nugent, D. Ward,
W Gouveia

B. Nugent notes new member William Gouveia.

MODERATOR

Request budget level funding.

STM # 10

G. Boyle notes 6,600 registered voters and quorum now 150, which is less than 1% and unable to start last 3 sessions due to not reaching quorum. G. Boyle feels unfair to town's people who do come and then wait and then post pone.

M. Hackett question road signs or additional newspaper advertisements.

P. Helmreich notes new population in Town and unknown action actions of the TM. He also notes that if it doesn't work, it can be changed back.

G. Boyle notes that he and possibly the Selectmen can speak to groups who may be intimidated.

B. Andrews notes he feels that Town may need to try RTM to avoid problems and to avoid unneeded craziness from the floor.

B. Kimball questions if snow stops a lot of people, would the Moderator continue to another date.

G. Boyle notes he would need to ask the group if they would vote to continue to another date.

B. Gouveia notes he feels that this does not attack the problem. He feels the problem is that people feel that they do not make a difference. He thinks that a change of the system is needed for the taxpayers in these times such as RTM. A taxpayer can let their representative know their views on subjects.

P. Helmreich notes sitting and waiting for quorum and late starts.

Moderator notes other Towns have increased attendance when quorum was dropped.

B. Kimball questions live TV to give people opportunity to understand how TM is run.

C. MacDonald notes same problem in other communities and increased participation with quorum at zero. He notes he like the open town meeting and notes problems with RTM.

Fire Department transfer request

Chief requests \$6,000 to replace water tank in 1965 Engine 5. Truck is the primary off the road truck and secondary water carrier. Chief notes tried to repair tank but unable. \$6,000 is estimated price but will be going out to bid. Chief notes that replacement needs to be done quickly because of brush fire season.

B. Andrews, fire department welder, notes last time tank was repaired it was noted to be in bad shape. The truck, engine, chasis and pumper are in good shape.

R. Nugent questions paying out of expenses due to \$24,000 balance.

B. Gouveia notes setting money aside and then going out to bid is a bad idea.

Discussion of steel tank vs polyglass.

P. Helmreich notes capitol repairs of this type should be anticipated and feels that it should fit inside the budget.

B. Nugent notes January 31st STM warrant article.

S. Lombard notes fire expenses have stayed static in last years and that he and the Chief wanted direction from the Committee for spending monies not budgeted for.

Chief notes only tank truck for off the road brush fires. Approx 100 runs for last year.

M. Hackett requests revised transfer request after receiving bids.

Tank will take 3 weeks to be built to specifications.

S. Lombard introduces new Town Accountant, Muriel Robinson.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

STM articles

#1

To transfer \$1M from stabilization to School Department for Solmonese School repairs due to not using \$1M for landfill capping.

#2

To authorize School department to spend insurance funds to repair school damages from insurance reimbursement account.

S. Lombard notes stabilization can be used for repairs to school which also allows flexibility to use funds in F91 under prop 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Insurance reimbursements can go back to Town for town government.

P. Helmreich questions article 1 and article 2.

S. Lombard notes it's either/or articles.

Discussion of override, if needed, with funds in stabilization.

Estimated repair costs \$1M.

M. Myers questions authorization to receive funds.

S. Lombard notes only need authorization to spend.

B. Kimball notes should make attempt to save funds.

P. Helmreich notes little change to put funds away. Stabilization should be used for capital expenditures over next 5 years.

K. Eagan questions paying off bond or retire bond.

S. Lombard notes once committed must pay for 10 years with interest.

B. Gouveia notes average taxpayer may perceive that funds are being moved for wrong reasons and notes long-range goal of the stabilization account when set up.

S. Lombard notes Town facing new problems. The taxpayers are used to getting certain services. He notes problem with proposed layoffs or override with \$1.6M in savings. The control of transferring funds is up to the taxpayers. Town has received 50,000 insurance reimbursement but has not spent any funds.

M. Splaine notes may be able to increase items through insurance approvals ie fire detectors upgrade.
Review of capitol planning.

M. Splaine notes will save monies using High School instead of Middle School for TM. Also will not interrupt school programs.

B. Gouveia notes tremendous job by Staff at Solmonese School for the children in the school after the fire.

R. Nugent notes that the Planning Board will not be moving their 4 articles on the 1-22-90 STM warrant.

J. Clark will also not be moving article.

STM January 22, 1990

#1

S. Lombard notes \$27,371 for funding F89 Norton Police Patrolmen contract (F90 has been budgeted for) includes:

sick leave buy back - $\frac{1}{2}$ of accumulation

shift differential

uniform allowance

shift bidding clause

time and $\frac{1}{2}$ for 3rd party detail work

3 year contract - 6% - 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % - 7%

longevity pay

#2

S. Lombard notes \$21,507 for funding Middle Management Union contract which includes:

60 day probation increase to 1 year

1 hr paid lunch

compensatory time for emergency type meeting not regular board meetings or TM

Sick leave - 18 days per year with max 100 days (no buy back)

personal days

clothing allowance

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % increase with adjustment

B. Kimball notes 8.8% - 1% increases for 10 people and trying to hold line on salaries, denying other employees over 6.5% increases.

M. Hackett notes sending signal to spend via approving top ranges and greater increases.

Review last year increases.

All Town contracts will end June '91.

B. Gouveia notes problems with not funding of contract and notes best interest to support people who have negotiated it.
B. Kimball states need to show people who have negotiated contract what the Town can do - these people who are negotiating will be in office for a few years.
S. Lombard notes fair labor negotiations and notes dealing with professional negotiators and dealing the best position.
Funds to cover contract will come from unsettled contracts account.

#3

S. Lombard notes \$42,879 shortage in insurance account due to workman's comp. Insurance is per payroll which initially did not include bus drivers, refuse collectors.
To fund from free cash.

S. Lombard notes \$45,000 was approved to highway account which was not carried over. To be recertified as free cash.
And also '88 TM correction of \$85,000 to also be recertified.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Transfer request \$1,735.71

To cover medical bills for two police officers injured on duty - now back to work.

Insurance policy premium of \$17,000 this year, therefore, Town did not purchase policy.

R. Nugent notes expending out of expenses and tightening budget.

S. Lombard notes Town will also be receiving reimbursement from homeowner insurance.

STM January 22, 1990

#10

D. Ward moves to recommend article 10

P. Helmreich seconds

Discussion

D. Ward moves question

P. Helmreich seconds

Unanimous

In favor: MacQuown, Ward, Desrochers, Kimball, Helmreich
Opposed: Hackett, Brown, Eagan, Gouveia

#1

D. Ward moves to recommend article 1

P. Helmreich seconds

In favor: Hackett, Brown, Ward, Gouveia, Helmreich, Eagan,
Kimball

Abstain: MacQuown

#2

D. Ward moved to recommend article 2

P. Helmreich seconds

In favor: Hackett, Ward, Gouveia, Helmreich

Opposed: Kimball, Brown, Eagan

Abstain: MacQuown

#3

D. Ward moved to recommend article 3

K. Eagan seconds

In favor: Hackett, Brown, Ward, Eagan, Gouveia, Helmreich,
Kimball

Abstain: MacQuown

#4

B. Kimball moved to recommend article 4

K. Eagan seconds

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 pm
until 1-22-90 at approximately 7:30 pm in the Middle School
cafeteria.