

Finance Committee Meeting
April 18, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Peter Carignan; Stephen Evans; Wayne Graf; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Robert Camp; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Michael Flaherty.

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 11, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Evans abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

New Local Aid Estimates – Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with a handout with updated Local Estimated Receipts and Charges. FY13 Estimated Charges for the HWM budget is \$2,611,243 and Estimated Receipts is \$14,436,876.

III. Old Business

Turnout Gear for Fire Department – Chief Schleicher addressed the FinCom regarding the question of whether the capital request for 10 sets of turnout gear should be a part of the Fire budget or a capital improvements request. He provided the FinCom with a handout stating that 10 years is the length of time that the gear lasts before needing to be replaced. He said he spoke with the fire chief in Attleboro, who is also currently replacing turnout gear, and he is going through capital improvements. He said that if it is a “project” costing greater than \$10K then it qualifies, which then the turnout gear would.

School Budget - Mr. Helmreich provided the members with a FinCom Budget Informational Worksheet, outlining budget items that have been recommended (both increases and decreases) by the FinCom and items that still need to be addressed.

Mr. Helmreich stated that he feels that the FinCom should vote to fund the School Department’s salary plus the 1% increase that other town departments have received. He said he would also like to fund the \$228 in out-of-district Special Education costs. Mr. Helmreich said that he would like to see the FinCom resolve any uncertainties with the funding of the School Department and the Library, and *then* revisit the other town departments that the town manager is recommending that additional funds to be given to (Police, Fire, etc.).

Mr. Tarantino questioned what other town departments also have pay steps. Mr. Helmreich said that he would look into that. Mr. Yunits stated that Dr. Ansay stated that the pay steps in the School Department are about a \$500K increase each year.

Mr. Thomas said that he feels that if the School Department’s portion of Fixed and Shared expenses (health benefits, etc.) were to be removed, it would show a ‘truer’ picture of what share of these expenses the Schools are really using.

Mr. Carignan noted that the difference between the School Department’s FY13 request of \$23,235,958 and the town manager’s recommendation of \$22,836,668 is \$399,290.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the School’s FY12 budget of \$22,511,668 plus \$457,206 (the 1% increase, per Mr. Helmreich’s handout) equals \$22,968,874.

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to recommend budget account #300 (School Department) in the amount of \$22,968,874. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: 6 members in favor, with Mr. Graf opposed. **Motion carries.**

It was then figured that subtracting the figure of \$22,686,668, which was previously voted by the FinCom for the School Dept., from the new figure of \$22,968,874, yields a deficit of \$282,206. This deficit, when added to the estimated overage of \$277,736 from the control sheet, yields a deficit of \$4,470.

It was then discussed where to cut this \$4,470 to make a balanced budget.

Mr. Yunits said that the Schools do not have to give back any extra funds at the end of the fiscal year, so if funds continue to be given to the Schools then the town will have less and less Free Cash at the end of the year.

Mr. Rotondi suggested cutting the Highway seasonal position in half.

Mr. Helmreich pointed out that the biggest change that has taken place in the FY13 budget has been the addition of the 3 new F-T positions in the communications Department.

Mr. Yunits noted that the Town Clerk's position may not be voted to become an appointed position, therefore there could be some funding cut from that account, because as it stands now, the Town Clerk's budget includes funding for a 40 hour town clerk position.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider budget account #161-510 (Town Clerk – salaries). Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: 6 members in favor, with Mr. Rotondi opposed. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Evans to recommend account #161-510 (Town Clerk – salaries) in the amount of \$95,582, a reduction of \$2,235 from what was previously voted. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to reconsider budget account #420-510 (Highway – salaries). Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Evans to recommend account #420-510 (Highway – salaries) in the amount of \$541,379, a reduction of \$2,235 from what was previously voted. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

After these votes, it was noted that the FY13 proposed budget is now balanced.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced: Minutes of April 11, 2012
Local Aid Estimates
Turnout gear handout
Mr. Helmreich's informational handout of updates

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary