

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – MARCH 1, 2010

The FinCom joined the BOS at 7:45 p.m. in Town Hall.

Members present: Bothwick, Creighton, Croft, Kenney, Martin and Putnam

Members absent: Sullivan

Others present: BOS, members of the MERSC, DPW Director, Town Accountant, and Town Administrator

Mrs. Thorne presided.

DPW CAPITAL ITEMS - The DPW Director explained certain projects and gave them a priority rating.

Comprehensive Waste Water Management Plan – The control panels had to be recalibrated as the electrical lines were never completed causing the flow recordings to be inaccurate. Although important this is not pressing and the Director would rather use \$50,000 for I&I and repairs.

Millet's Lane – Rockwood Heights will replace Millet's Lane and this is a priority.

New water office and garage – The number one priority due to a DEP mandate. There is a small possibility for an extension but must be appropriated.

Sewer projects – Projects related to the sewer other than trucks must be done.

Fencing replacement – This is not important to the waste water plant but there is an obligation to the Mason's.

Vehicles – The VBM auto lift is a number one priority followed by the pickup and utility trucks, followed by the dump truck.

Sewer projects – Fencing, inflow meter and effluent pump projects may be combined and funded with sewer funds.

Lincoln Well Equipment Upgrade – This is a number one priority followed by the water treatment plant filter media, followed by dredging the water treatment plant and pond lagoons, followed by the water main upgrades which should be done annually and could be done this year on Mill Street.

Road repair – Water main upgrades are not needed to accomplish the Mill Street utility work.

Central Street dam and headwall – This project should be considered at some time since every new storm corrodes the infrastructure.

SCADA/Telemetry – The DPW Director has a meeting scheduled for Thursday and will have direction whether to replace or repair the software. The cost is \$250,000.

The Town Accountant reported that there is \$50,000 in sewer surplus funds and sewer rates may be used for funding.

OVERRRIDE QUESTION

Ideas discussed:

- If Manchester passes a general override (GOR) and Essex does not there will be no effect on the school budget and funding sources.
- If both Towns pass a GOR the school will be able to use less of their reserves for funding.
- Is there a way to acquire more funding for F'12 capital school projects for next year?

- If there is no recommendation for a GOR, what will the BOS do regarding renewal of the trash contract?
- Any override will include capital and reserves funding.
- Recommend debt exclusion this year and tell the voters that next year a GOR of 2-2.5 times greater will be recommended in order to increase the levy limit for the next few years. This will assume that the school cannot request a 6.1% budget increase.
- Reduce the state and local receipts to increase the levy limit and use reserves for funding.
- Capital exclusion this year and GOR next year.

The BOS unanimously voted to recommend a GOR up to \$1,500,000.

CPC – The Chairman joined the meeting to discuss a warrant article that requests a 1% increase in the surcharge. The CPC has not been able to fund any affordable housing and open space projects with the current .5% surcharge and reduced state reimbursement. Due to the Town's overall financial state the Chairman will be asking his Committee for reconsideration. He reported that a stabilization bill has favorably been discharged to the legislature which would support 75% reimbursement.

The BOS unanimously voted to include the surcharge article in the warrant.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Sabella
Clerk