

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – JULY 13, 2010

A meeting convened at 7:34 pm in Town Hall.

Members present: Creighton, Croft, Kenney, Pick, Putnam and Sullivan

Members absent: Bothwick, Ervin and Martin

Others present: Town Accountant

Mr. Putnam presided.

INTER BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS – FISCAL 2010

DPW - Mr. Croft MOVED “to recommend approval of transferring \$6,500 from Contributory Pensions to Water Maintenance for an emergency pump motor replacement at the Lincoln Street Well”. The MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

DPW – Mr. Creighton MOVED “to recommend approval of transferring \$6,000 from DPW salaries to water expenses in anticipation of additional fiscal 2010 expenditures, subject to approval of the BOS”. The MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

This amount is an estimate requested by the Town Accountant in the absence of the DPW Director.

Enterprise Funds – Mr. Croft MOVED “to recommend approval of transferring \$16,250, \$8,800 from sewer salaries and \$7,450 from water salaries to replace the water treatment plant filter replacement account used in error to pay a bill, subject to approval of the BOS”. The MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Town Accountant confirmed that this fund may be used for a similar project as an available fund.

The Committee raised the question as to why the DPW Director is not filling out his role until August, and who is in charge. The Town Accountant reported that the Cemetery Director was temporarily in charge, and there is the possibility to return to a split department of highway/cemetery, and water and sewer.

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS

Legal – Mr. Putnam MOVED “to recommend approval of \$2,500 for legal expenses through the end of fiscal 2010, subject to approval of the BOS”. The MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

Police – The Committee considered a request for \$12,500 from the fiscal 2011 Reserve Fund for police training. The Town Accountant reported that the DOR denied a previous request to transfer salaries from the fiscal 2010 budget to pay for a fiscal 2011 expense. The Chief has not received a bill for the training cost. Although the Committee supports the need for police training, the request was tabled until the bill is received and if the cost may be funded within the fiscal 2011 budget.

MINUTES – The minutes of 5/25 and 6/29/2010 were unanimously adopted as written.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pine Street – The Town Accountant reported that after the houses and their foundations are removed the properties will be capped at the former burn dump location.

Joint budget meeting – Members of the BOS reportedly encourage the FinCom to begin conversations with the Essex counterparts. It was suggested to have the FinCom Chairmen from both Towns and the School Chairman meet initially to develop the approach for the September 8 meeting. The Town Accountant indicated that the School needs to realize that their budget must be developed with no more than a 5% increase.

The FinCom agrees that conversations need to begin early and education/communication to the Towns will need to be frequent throughout the year, leading up to the Towns Meetings’ question of an override.

An initial summary budget of \$22 million has been prepared by the Town Accountant.

Pensions and Health Insurance costs – The interest was expressed to meet with the Town Accountant to gain a better understanding of these items. The Town Accountant noted that pensions are a fixed cost and that health insurance costs may be reduced. There is agreement that a backup plan should be developed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Sabella, Clerk