

# TOWN OF KINGSTON

## MASSACHUSETTS

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### **Minutes** **27 January 2011**

Chairman Elaine Fiore opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:08 PM on 27 January 2011 in Room 203 at the Kingston Town Hall. Other members present were: Lawrence Hunt, David Lofstrom, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Mathew Hamilton was absent.

Building Inspector Paul Armstrong met with the Committee to review his FY12 budget request. He explained that his training line item is used to pay for certifications and seminars pertaining to enforcement of the building codes. There was a discussion of whether to increase fees for permits and inspections. Mr. Armstrong said he will check on the last time the Board of Selectmen increased the fees.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by David Lofstrom following the discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$120,966 for the FY12 Inspection Services Department budget of which \$118,541 is for personal services and \$2,425 is for expenses.

The Chairman reported that John Haas has agreed that \$5,000 will cover the FY12 cost of secretarial services for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$5,277 for the FY12 Zoning Board of Appeals budget of which \$5000 will be for personal services and \$277 for expenses.

There was a discussion of the Moderator's proposal to provide residents with advance information about the town meeting articles including obtaining prices for printing and mailing or other means of distribution.

Animal Control Officer Debra Mueller met with the Committee to review her FY12 budget request. Ms. Mueller reported that following a fire emergency she asked for additional funds to install a fire- and smoke-alarm system wired to the police or fire station for protection when the shelter is not staffed. There was discussion of whether the installation should be paid from her budget or from the Permanent Building Committee's building maintenance funds. The Committee agreed to refer the project to the Permanent Building Committee's chairman, marking it as a priority.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by David Lofstrom, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$48,817 for the FY12 Animal Control budget of which \$39,563 will be for personal services and \$9,254 for expenses.

Town Planner Thomas Bott met with the Committee to review the Planning Board's FY12 budget request. He asked for additional funding of \$202 to pay a substitute to do the in the absence of the Planning Board's secretary.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was –

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$43,268 for the FY12 Planning Board budget of which \$37,978 will be for personal services and \$5,290 for expenses.

The personal services number includes \$202 for clerical overtime. Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 as amended.

The Committee deferred its vote on the Board of Health FY12 budget since there was no representative to answer the Committee's questions about the Board's request for an additional \$1,500 for tobacco compliance. The Committee will reschedule the Health Board's appointment and ask that a member of the Board be present at that time.

The Committee discussed changes in the Historical Commission's budget reported by Elaine Fiore which included an additional \$9 in expenses

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$300 for the FY12 Historical Commission budget of which \$0.00 will be for personal services and \$300 for expenses.

There was discussion of the Town's wind and solar project and of the revenues it might generate and how they may be used.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by David Lofstrom, following the discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To dissolve the Enterprise Fund and to fund the Green Energy Committee from the General Fund.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following the discussion, it was unanimously –

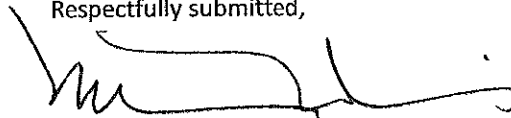
**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation for seed money for the Green Energy Committee to be expended to initiate new green projects and, when revenue is realized, to recommend funding for future projects based on a plan to be submitted by the Green Energy Committee similar to the process the Capital Planning Committee goes through each year.

The Committee will invite the Green Energy Committee to meet again to formulate a formal plan until revenue is received to generate programs.

The Committee discussed the effect of a predicted 7 per cent decrease in state aid on town programs.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miriam MacInnis', written over a horizontal line.

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary