

# TOWN OF KINGSTON

## MASSACHUSETTS

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### **Minutes** **10 February 2011**

Chairman Elaine Fiore opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:00 PM on 10 February 2011 in Room 203 at the Kingston Town Hall. Other members present were: Mathew Hamilton, Lawrence Hunt, David Lofstrom, and Claire Soares. Paul Ricci was attending a budget meeting of the Silver Lake Regional School District. Also attending was Town Treasurer John LaBrache and Town Administrator Jill Myers.

The Committee reviewed and discussed items on the agenda.

The Committee discussed the Town Collector's FY12 budget request. The Collector did not attend the meeting.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$135,956 for the Town Collector's FY12 budget of which \$104,181 is for personal services and \$31,775 is for expenses.

Paul Basler, Superintendent of Streets, Trees, and Parks, met with the Committee to review the budgets under his jurisdiction. There was a discussion of the street-lighting budget.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$41,400 for the FY12 budget for street lighting of which \$0.00 is for personal services and \$41,400 is for expenses.

There followed a discussion of the snow and ice budget. Mr. Basler reported that \$402,690.78 has been spent to date on snow and ice removal, an amount which exceeds the \$144,000 appropriation by \$258,690. There was discussion of—

- putting aside \$300,000 to cover this year's deficit;
- increasing the snow and ice budget by transferring \$175 from the highway department expenses to the snow and ice budget to properly allocate the cost of gasoline used for snow removal;
- how gasoline is being charged when the Water Department is plowing;
- roads needing repair following the plowing season; use of crack sealing vs. repaving; some roads needing shaving because another layer would alter drainage.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$175,000 for the FY12 Snow and Ice budget of which \$55,000 is for personal services and \$120,000 is for expenses.

The Committee discussed the General Highways budget with Mr. Basler.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$924,342 for the FY12 General Highways budget of which \$603,436 is for personal services and \$320,906 is for expenses.

The Committee discussed the Solid Waste budget and Mr. Basler's plans for reconfiguration of the transfer station and for recyclables. Mr. Basler told the Committee that he —

- has some truck scales donated by Mary O'Donnell years ago that he wants to use to weigh construction and demolition materials;
- foresees a time when contractors will pay the town according to weight of those materials;
- wants to pave the area around the compactors and dig out the hill at the composting area;
- proposed putting in a foundation for a third compactor;
- reported the sewer department's need for a leaching field through the transfer station for its treatment plant;
- raised questions of the cost of paving for the sewer department and whether the tower must meet access regulations for handicapped persons.

Mr. Basler advised the Committee that in 2015 the town's cost of trash disposal will increase from \$36 to \$70 or \$80 per ton and that the town needs to reduce the tonnage carried to Rochester by increasing recycling. Mr. Basler reported that the town currently allows resident contractors to use the transfer station for construction and demolition materials.

There was discussion of access to the landfill site for the proposed wind turbines and sewer lines and of the engineering cost. Mr. Basler reported the need to keep the transfer station operating while that construction is going on.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$437,966 for the FY12 Solid Waste budget of which \$111,043 is for personal services and \$326,923 for expenses.

There was discussion of Mr. Basler's obtaining two dump trucks and a plow. He said he will get a quote on leasing vehicles for 3 and for 5 years. He said the only issue is that the plow is obtained from a different dealer than the truck but that he will work to get the plow written into the same lease.

Town Treasurer John LaBrache reported on the 10-year debt for the transfer station and that the payment on that debt will go down \$175,000 in 2012 and 2013. He added it won't have any impact on the debt service.

There was discussion of the \$20,348,304 number school liaison Paul Ricci reported and of an anticipated 7.3 cut in state aid.

The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's FY12 budget request.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by David Lofstrom, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$149,383 for the Treasurer's department of which \$119,633 is for personal services and \$29,750 is for expenses.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$2,726,213 for retirement of debt.

The Chairman, noting the Selectmen's agreement to a 5-per cent increase for the public safety chiefs and town administrator, proposed deferring discussion of possible wage increases until the Selectmen negotiate new police and fire contracts. Mr. LaBrache reported the Wage and Personnel Board will recommend a 2-per cent cost of living increase for employees working under that Bylaw.

Ms. Myers reported —

- her 5-per cent increase in FY12 represents a 1-per cent increase in each of five years since she agreed not to take an increase in either of her first two years nor will she have an increase in 2013 and 2014;
- the police and fire gave up sick-leave buyback effective January 1;
- no union contracts have been negotiated;
- the Selectmen have proposed no increases;
- all union contracts expire now except the patrol officers which has another year where the salary will survive into the third year without negotiation;
- she is proposing there be no career incentive pay for new hires.

There was discussion of the wind-solar project and of repealing the Enterprise Fund for revenues. Ms. Myers said she has signed the contract for the project.

There was discussion of budgeting for mailing the town-meeting warrant in FY12.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following a discussion about the Finance Committee budget, it was unanimously —

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY12 appropriation of \$5,500 for the Finance Committee of which \$5,000 is for personal services and \$500 for expenses.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2011 as submitted.

Mathew Hamilton abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

The Committee discussed a transfer request from the Conservation Commission to pay for consultant services for storm-water sampling and of a provision in the comprehensive permit that the applicant donate to the Town, as a gift, the amount of six thousand dollars specifically to assist the Town with testing and monitoring the water quality of the Jones River and related tributaries.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion, it was unanimously--

**VOTED:** To transfer \$6,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Conservation Commission to pay for consultant services for Phase II compliance with storm-water sampling requirements.

At the suggestion of the Town Administrator, the Finance Committee will not effect the transfer until the developer's \$6,000 check is received by the town.

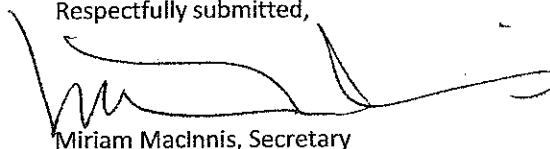
Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 as amended.

David Lofstrom abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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