

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes **3 March 2011**

Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:12 PM on 3 March 2011 in Room 201 at the Kingston Town Hall. Other members present were: David Lofstrom, Lawrence Hunt, and Claire Soares. Paul Ricci was absent. Also attending were Town Treasurer John LaBrache and Town Administrator Jill Myers. Elaine Fiore, who had been attending a meeting of the Town Government Study Committee, joined the meeting at 7:35 PM.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a request for a transfer of \$880 from the Reserve Fund to pay for inspections of businesses selling tobacco products. The members noted that previously the inspections were paid for by the state and that the Board of Health has raised permit fees to cover those costs.

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

VOTED: To transfer \$880 from the Reserve Fund to the Board of Health expense budget to pay for inspections of businesses selling tobacco products to assure compliance with state and local regulations.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a request for a transfer of \$3,979 from the Reserve Fund to pay for replacement of a damaged 1998 generator at the Elm Street repeater site.

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

VOTED: To transfer \$3979 from the Reserve Fund to the Police Department's property repair budget to pay for replacement of a damaged 1998 generator at the Elm Street repeater site.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a request for a transfer of \$5,000 from the Reserve Fund to pay the deductible on an insurance claim resulting from a collapse of the roof on the public library.

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

VOTED: To transfer \$5,000 from the Reserve Fund to the appropriation for Property and Liability Insurance to pay the deductible on an insurance claim resulting from a collapse of the roof on the public library.

The Committee discussed the amounts to be allocated in FY12 to the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds.

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

VOTED: To allocate charges of \$195,150 to the Water Enterprise Fund for services it receives from other Town departments.

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

VOTED: To allocate charges of \$178,497 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for services it receives from other Town departments.

The Committee reviewed expenses requested for the Water Department's FY12 budget. Questions were raised as to whether the Department wants to purchase a truck for \$43,000 or lease one. The members discussed conflicting costs reported of \$43,000 and \$38,000 for leasing a truck and reported the Capital Planning Committee has voted to recommend leasing a truck for \$38,000. The Committee deferred making a recommendation on the expense budget pending receipt of more information from the Water Department.

Elaine Fiore joined the meeting following this discussion and henceforth chaired the meeting. The Committee was joined by Selectmen Sandy MacFarlane and Mark Beaton. The Committee reviewed and discussed the Selectmen's FY12 budget request.

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

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$372,685 for the Selectmen's FY12 budget of which \$314,454 is for personal services and \$58,231 is for expenses.

The Selectmen left the meeting after the vote.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the budget request for Care of Municipal Property and was joined in the discussion by Ronald Gleason, Chairman of the Permanent Building Committee. On behalf of his Committee, Mr. Gleason recommended that \$18,675 be appropriated for needed repairs to municipal buildings as prioritized by the Building Committee. There was no objection to the funding, once approved by the Permanent Building Committee and the Town Administrator, being paid from a line item in the Care of Municipal Property budget.

Ms. Myers reported there is an issue with custodial coverage now that the new Senior Center has opened and meals are being served five days per week. She recommended an additional amount for more

assistance for the two and a half positions existing and said she expected the actual need will be revealed in the next two weeks.

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

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$200,156 for the FY12 Care of Municipal Property budget of which \$68,360 is for personal services and \$131,796 is for expenses.

The Committee reviewed the Data Processing budget and discussed upgrading the Town's computer system and noted that the Technology Committee is working on further improvements.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the annual town meeting article requested by the Community Preservation Committee for the projects it is proposing.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on a request to use \$22,000 continued preservation of the Major John Bradford House.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by David Lofstrom, following the discussion and a 4 to 1 vote, it was —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on a request to use \$50,000 of CPC funds to pay for an engineering study to determine possible development of the Hall property.

Lawrence Hunt opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on a request to use \$31,500 of CPC funds to pay for restoration of the Surprize Hose House.

A motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares to recommend favorable action on a request to use \$42,350 of CPC funds to pay for restoration and preservation of the Holmes boatshed failed on a 2 to 3 vote. Mathew Hamilton and Claire Soares supported the motion; Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, and David Lofstrom opposed it.

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

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on a request to use \$15,000 of CPC funds to pay for installing a wooden pavilion at Triphammer Park.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion and a 4 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on a request to use \$35,000 of CPC funds to pay for an archeological survey of the Hall and Calista properties.

Mathew Hamilton, Lawrence Hunt, David Lofstrom and Claire Soares supported the motion; Elaine Fiore opposed it.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on a request to use \$15,000 of CPC funds to pay for a study to determine the condition of the Kingston Town Wharf.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion and a 4 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on a request to use \$50,000 of CPC funds to pay for the preservation of the 1895 Shiverick catboat "Bacalaju."

Mathew Hamilton, Lawrence Hunt, David Lofstrom and Claire Soares supported the motion; Elaine Fiore opposed it.

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

VOTED: To reserve from Fiscal Year 2012 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenue amounts as follows:

Open Space	\$71,000
Historic Resources	\$71,000
Community Housing	<u>\$71,000</u>
Total Reserves	\$213,000

There was discussion of the Chairman's report that the Moderator wants information sent to the residents prior to the annual town meeting. There is no funding in the FY11 budget for this. Postcard notifications to each household advising voters of the availability of town meeting was suggested for FY12.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To reconsider the recommended Finance Committee's FY12 budget; and further

VOTED: To add \$2,000 to the Finance Committee's line item for office supplies for mailing notices to voters, thereby recommending a

total FY12 Finance Committee budget of \$7,500 of which \$5,000 is for personal services and \$2,500 is for expenses.

Following a report that the town budget reflects a deficit of \$200,000 as of 3 March 2011, there was discussion of placing an override question on the annual ballot for the school budget.

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

VOTED: Not to place an override question on the annual ballot for the school budget.

Ms. Myers reported that Town Counsel is reviewing language for the transfer-station proposal.

Mr. LaBrache offered options for paying for the transfer-station proposal in addition to the ones he offered the week before, namely, --

- extending a two-year note for 5 years since notes cost less than bonding ;
- using "green" revenue, if available to pay off the note in five years.

There was discussion of --

- whether to ask to have the Warrant opened to insert an article to address a debt-exclusion ballot question;
- borrowing for ten years to be repaid from "green" money beginning in FY13;
- there being revenue from the wind/solar project beginning in August FY12;
- Mr. LaBrache's report that a debt exclusion will be needed if the Finance Committee's article on funding a bond should fail.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion and a 3 to 2 vote, it was --

VOTED: To ask the Board to take the necessary legal steps to put a debt-exclusion question for the transfer station on the ballot.

Elaine Fiore, Mathew Hamilton, and Claire Soares supported the motion; Lawrence Hunt and David Lofstrom opposed it.

It was noted that an article for the transfer station is needed. The Chairman proposed a meeting on 15 March with the Selectmen to consider the ballot question.

It was reported that --

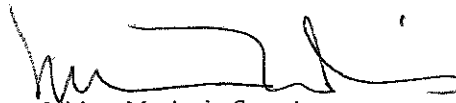
- John Creed believes the current regional school number is the one that will be proposed unless Chapter 70 money is cut more;
- the Harbormaster is requesting an additional \$6,036 for personal services in his FY12 budget for two assistant Harbormasters for a total budget increase of \$9,800 including Other Charges and there was discussion of increasing the rates for use of the facilities.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously --

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2011
as amended.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Miriam MacInnis, Secretary