

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
7 February 2008

Vice Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 7 February 2008 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, John LaBrache, Judythe Lewis via telephone conference call, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Jason Lelio was absent.

John LaBrache nominated Mathew Hamilton to be Chairman of the Committee. The nomination was seconded by Elaine Fiore. There were no other nominations. Following a unanimously vote of the Committee, Mathew Hamilton was declared to be Chairman of the Committee. .

Elaine Fiore nominated Jason Lelio to be Vice Chairman of the Committee. The nomination was seconded by John LaBrache. There were no other nominations. Following a unanimously vote of the Committee, Jason Lelio was declared to be Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Fire Chief Robert Heath met with the Committee to review his FY09 budget request. He asked to increase his training line item in personal services by \$900 with offsets from Professional Services of \$400 and of \$500 from the line item for travel and meetings in his expense budget. He explained his desire to have the Highway Department's mechanic trained to repair and maintain Fire Department vehicles and said he had the agreement of the mechanic and the Highway Department. He also reported having applied to the Sampson Fund Trustees for an award for his line item for special programs. He reported department items under the ATM equipment article are off the table.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$1,611,059 for personal services and \$280,728 for expenses, for a total FY09 Fire Department budget of \$1,891,787.

There was a discussion of the process for incurring overtime costs in the department.

The Chief reviewed with the Committee the FY09 Kingston Emergency Management Agency's budget request. He noted that funding of personnel is in accordance with a contract with Entergy and that he is asking Entergy to provide an operations and a communications center for the department.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend zero for personal services and \$978 for expenses, for a total FY09 KEMA budget of \$978.

The Chief requested a transfer from the Reserve Fund to pay for repairs to the ambulance and a ladder truck.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To transfer \$3600 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department expense budget for vehicle repairs.

The Committee revisited the Selectmen's FY09 budget request together with a report of a contractual increase of \$15,963 awarded the Town Administrator by the Selectmen which is to be offset by a \$20,000 reduction in the FY09 amount being requested in the Liability Insurance budget.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To reconsider the Committee's vote of 10 January 2008 to recommend \$293,238 for personal services and \$65,359 for expenses, for a total FY09 Selectmen's budget of \$358,597.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion and a 5 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend \$309,201 for personal services and \$65,359 for expenses, for a total FY09 Selectmen's budget of \$374,560.

Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members supported it.

The Committee then reviewed the FY09 budget for Liability Insurance.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend zero for personal services and \$196,000 for expenses, for a total FY09 Liability Insurance budget of \$196,000.

The Committee then discussed FY09 salaries for elected officials. John LaBrache and Elaine Fiore were recused from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Judythe Lewis, following discussion, all other members unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend a FY09 salary increase of \$3,842 for the Town Collector, of \$1,677 for the Town Clerk, and \$7,956 for the Town Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported —

- the results of his analysis of possible increases to the transfer-station fees and his intention to address the question with the Board of Selectmen; and
- That after estimating FY09 revenues and expenses including local receipts and state aid, he determined the current deficit in the operating budget is \$519,000.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget for the Inspection Department. The Committee noted that the Building Inspector did not include a provision for gasoline expense of \$500 in his budget request

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion and a 5 to 1 vote, it was —

VOTED: To recommend \$126,300 for personal services and \$5,300 for expenses, for a total FY09 Inspection Services budget of \$131,600.

Elaine Fiore opposed the motion; all other members supported it.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget for the Sealer of Weights and Measures. The Committee noted that the Sealer had turned back \$782.74 at the end of FY07.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$6,853 for personal services and \$1,200 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$8,053 for the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget submitted by the Animal Control Officer.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$41,227 for personal services and \$9,260 for expenses, for a total FY09 Animal Control budget of \$50,487.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget submitted by the Harbormaster.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$32,635 for personal services and \$11,965 for expenses, for a total FY09 Harbormaster's budget of \$44,600.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget submitted by the Treasurer.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was—

VOTED: To recommend \$124,859 for personal services and \$20,850 for expenses, for a total FY09 Treasurer's budget of \$145,709.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all others supported it.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget submitted for the Tax Title account.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was—

VOTED: To recommend a FY09 appropriation of \$7,500 for the Tax Title account.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all others supported it.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget request of the Rent Control Committee.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$1,500 for personal services and \$150 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$1,650 for the Rent Control Committee.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget requirements for Retirement of Debt.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was --

VOTED: To recommend a FY09 appropriation of \$2,856,761 to cover outstanding debt.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all others supported it.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget requirements for Employee Benefits.

Upon made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend \$3,412,260 for personal services and \$71,066 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$3,483,326 for Employee Benefits.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all others supported it.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget request of the Council on Aging.

Upon made by Claire Soares and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend \$143,769 for personal services and \$35,275 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$179,044 the Council on Aging.

Mr. LaBrache reported that the Registrars have requested the Sampson Fund Trustees to fund the CART program. The Committee deferred deliberations on the Elections and Registration budget until 14 February 2008.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget request of the Recreation Commission.

Upon made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend \$160,076 for personal services and 89,444 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$249,520 the Recreation Commission.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of meeting held on 10 January 2008 as submitted.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2008 as corrected.

The Committee reviewed the FY09 budget request of the Wage and Personnel Board.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$4,117 for personal services and \$200 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$4,317 for the Wage and Personnel Board.

There being no further vote or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary