

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
13 September 2007

Chairperson Judythe Lewis opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 13 September 2007 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, and Claire Soares. Frederick Baughman was absent.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda.

Town Treasurer John LaBrache met with the Committee to report his FY09 budget estimates prior to the Budget Advisory Committee meeting on 19 September 2007. He –

- said there is new legislation pending on health benefits and that most employees and retirees will vote on whether to join the state health plan which would provide savings to the town and participants but offer less in benefits;
- expects the County assessment to be less this year but has no exact figure as yet;
- he proposed that the Finance Committee wait until December before stating a goal for capital expenditures;
- estimated available free cash to be \$642,000 based on current information;
- reported the Assessors may be able to release some funds from Overlay Surplus to be used at town meeting;
- advised the Assessors are reporting a new growth figure of only \$200,000 based on a reduction in building permits issued;
- said the Town Administrator predicts a 4 per cent increase in state aid;
- predicted a reduction of at least \$1 million in the amount expected from School Building Assistance for the KES/KIS schools based on a recent audit.
- expressed concern that money earmarked for construction of senior center has not been spent because a location for the center has not been decided. He asked the Finance Committee to write to the Finance Committee's representative on the Senior Center Building Committee urging that Committee to address the financial ramifications of not spending the funds.

Judythe Lewis reported the Committee will advise the Town and school administrators to show contractual obligations as the only increase for FY09 personal services and to level fund all expenses.

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

VOTED: To reappoint for another term Kathleen Voigt to the Audit Committee, Helen Claire Soares to the Capital Planning Committee; and Richard Gardner to the Wage and Personnel Board.

Requests for funding to repair vandalism at Gray's Beach and a new fire truck were reviewed. The Committee will request an itemization of the cost for repairs at Gray's Beach.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2007 as submitted.

The Chairman announced that the next meeting will be held on 4 October 2007.

The Committee reviewed articles on the Warrant for the next special town meeting.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary