

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
23 February 2006

Chairperson Jean Landis Naumann opened a meeting of the Kingston Finance Committee in the Kingston Town Hall at 7:30 PM on 23 February. Also present were Frederick Baughman, Richard Gardner, Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, Judythe Lewis, Maurice Simard, and Claire Soares.

Sewer Commissioners Elaine Fiore and Peter Cobb and Superintendent Kenneth Vandell met with the Committee to review its FY07 budget request. Richard Gardner, liaison to the Sewer Commission, reviewed that request and highlighted increases requested. Elaine Fiore reported--

- a reduction in costs allocated to the Assessors' Department and increases in those to the Collector's office; a shortfall in betterments, calculated to be \$1.2 million, is currently found to be approximately \$400,00;
- the Board of Health is charging homeowners in Phase 2 of the sewer connections \$125 for witnessing the collapse of septic tanks;
- the Sewer Commissioners propose hiring a connection inspector; the Board of Health would reduce its fee to \$50;
- the Sewer Commissioners will absorb the cost since households in Phase I were not charged a fee because engineers from CDM inspected the installation and dismantling of the septic tanks;
- the Commissioners are coordinating sewer business with other departments.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$3,180,195 for the Sewer Enterprise Fund subject to future changes in the debt figures.

Jean Landis Naumann reported the Library Trustees' appointment has been rescheduled to 2 March 2006.

Judythe Lewis reported on the Elementary School's budget request and Frederick Baughman noted that special education costs are driving increases in that budget.

Conservation Agent Maureen Thomas and Conservation Commissioner Gary Langenbach met with the Committee to review the Commissioners' FY07 budget and explained increases in certain line items.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$75,929 for the Conservation Commission of which \$71,819 is to be expended for personal services and \$4,110, for expenses.

Animal Control Officer Debra Mueller met with the Committee to review her FY07 request. Frederick Baughman and Maurice Simard, liaisons to the Animal Control department, reviewed the proposed budget. Debra Mueller described the proposed changes and expressed concern about making proper disposal of animal waste. She agreed to inquire and report possible means of disposal.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$46,585 for the Animal Control Department of which \$38,215 is to be expended for personal services and \$8,370 for expenses.

The Committee reviewed Article No. 2 pertaining to increasing fees for dog licenses.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To support an increase in fees for dog licenses as requested in Article 22 of the annual town meeting warrant .

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Judythe Lewis, following discussion and a 6 to 0 to 2 vote, it was --

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February as submitted.

Jason Lelio and Richard Gardner abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

Richard Gardner volunteered to update water and sewer debt budgets with a new debt schedule.

It was stated that --

- increasing fees at the transfer station is being discussed by the Selectmen;
- the current snow and ice deficit is \$179,836;
- committee chairmen will meet with the Selectmen on 21 March 2006 to discuss town meeting articles;
- that the Finance Committee must determine override procedures and positions;
- the line item for County Retirement requested in the Employee Benefits budget has been reduced by \$18,131- from \$907,260 to \$889,129.

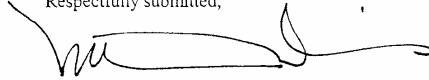
A motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, to reconsider a recommendation for FY07 Employee benefit was unanimously voted; and further

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$2,885,500 of which \$2,827,900 is to be expended for personal services and \$57,600, for expenses.

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There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary