

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
9 March 2006

Chairperson Jean Landis Naumann opened a meeting of the Kingston Finance Committee in the Kingston Town Hall at 7:30 PM on 9 March. Committee members present were Frederick Baughman, Richard Gardner, Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, Judythe Lewis, Maurice Simard, and Claire Soares.

Assistant Assessor James Judge and Assessors Anne Dunn, William Twohig, and William Martin met with the Committee to review their FY07 budget request. They emphasized the need for additional staffing to assist with an added work load.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded Claire Soares, following discussion and a 4 to 3 to 1 vote, it was--

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$193,599 for the Assessors FY07 budget of which \$171,799 is to be allocated to personal services and \$21,800, for expenses.

Frederick Baughman, Judythe Lewis, Jean Landis Naumann, and Claire Soares supported the motion; Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, and Maurice Simard opposed it; Richard Gardner abstained from voting on it.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$25,000 for Revaluation.

In response to Jean Landis Naumann's question, Veteran's Agent William Martin reported that to date there is a \$20,000 deficit in his budget and he has a request for \$30,000 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Richard Gardner --

- reported that the retirement of debt numbers in the Finance Committee's book for the voters will not be final numbers because the bond sale will not take place until after the book goes to print;
- explained the Capital Planning Committee's priorities for FY07 which total \$319,600;
- reported the Superintendent of Streets, Trees, and Parks wishes to be on a new committee formed to study the transfer station;
- reported the Capital Planning Committee will oppose a new truck for the Water Department.

A motion was made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Frederick Baughman to accept a capital plan funding \$319,600 for general government departments, \$650,000 for the Water Enterprise Fund and \$40,000 for the Waste Water Enterprise Fund. It was amended on a motion by Jean Landis Naumann and seconded by Judythe Lewis to eliminate \$51,000 that was included in the original motion for an ejection trailer at the landfill. The motion was further amended by Jason Lelio and seconded by Maurice Simard to

not support an expenditure of \$25,000 for planning an expansion of the Kingston police station that was included in the original motion.

The amendment to remove \$25,000 for planning an expansion of the Kingston police station failed on a 2 to 6 vote with Jason Lelio and Mathew Hamilton supporting it; all other members present and voting opposing it.

A vote to accept and fund a capital plan in the amount of \$268,600, without the \$51,000 ejection trailer, passed on a 6 to 2 vote, with Richard Gardner and Mathew Hamilton opposed; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

VOTED: To support funding in the amount of \$650,000 for the Water Enterprise Fund and \$40,000 for the Waste Water Enterprise Fund as part of the Capital Plan.

Wage and Personnel Board members Elizabeth White and James McKenna met with the Committee to report their recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. McKenna reported on the internal and external equity studies they did and on which they based their recommendations on reclassifications and a 2.5 per cent general increase.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion and a 7 to 1 vote, it was --

VOTED: To support the reclassification of the Building Inspector's position from S8 to S-9 in FY07.

Maurice Simard opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion and a 6 to 2 vote, it was --

VOTED: To support the reclassification of the Assistant Assessor's position from S8 to S-9 in FY07.

Mathew Hamilton and Maurice Simard opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

VOTED: To increase the wage earned by Call Firefighters to \$14 per hour.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To reclassify the position of Summer Program Director from a weekly salary to an hourly rate of \$16.12.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Judythe Lewis, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To not recommend amending Schedule B-2 of the Wage and Personnel Bylaw as petitioned.

The Wage and Personnel Board recommended a FY07 salary for the Town Treasurer of \$24,284. Town Treasurer John LaBrache, being present, proposed reducing that amount by \$3,000 this year saying he would look for an increase of that amount in FY08.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Judythe Lewis, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To support setting the Town Treasurer's salary at \$21,284.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To support a general increase of 2.5 per cent for employees classified under the Wage and Personnel Bylaw.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion and a 7 to 1 vote, it was --

VOTED: To support setting the Town Clerk's salary at \$58,434 and the Town Collector's salary at \$54,286.

Maurice Simard opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously --

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$4,152 for the Wage and Personnel Board's FY07 budget of which \$3,907 is to be allocated for personal services and \$245, for expenses.

The Committee interviewed the Town Treasurer and Town Collector for their positions on Article 18 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant which proposes special legislation to combine the two positions. The Collector said she was opposed to it; the Treasurer supported it. Each gave reasons for their opinions.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda. The members took no action on the Fire Chief's renewed request for a transfer of funds to cover the cost of repairs to a ladder truck.

Treasurer John LaBrache reported that the Board of Selectmen --

- tabled a request that it create a Solid Waste Committee;
- increased transfer-station fees;
- reduced the hours of operation at the transfer station.

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

VOTED: To accept as amended the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2006.

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

VOTED: To approve the Board of Health's request for a transfer of \$570 from the Reserve Fund to its personal services budget for overtime.

Jean Landis Naumann reported that the \$45,000 has been returned from the vocational education program and it will be used to fund articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Upon motion made by Jean Landis Naumann and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$2,844,570 for Employee Benefits.

Upon motion made by Maurice Simard and seconded by Richard Gardner, following discussion and a 7 to 1 vote, it was --

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$68,299 for Snow and Ice Removal of which \$18,035 is to be allocated to personal services and \$50,264, for expenses.

Jason Lelio opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

The Committee set an appointment with the Harbormaster and Shellfish Constable on 16 March at 7:30 PM.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Richard Gardner, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$208,718 for insurance.

Upon motion made by Maurice Simard and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$9,175 for the Zoning Board of Appeals of which \$8,480 is to be allocated to personal services and \$695 for expenses.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend appropriating \$22,900 for Article 14 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the following departmental equipment: Town Clerk's voting booths, \$2400; Building Inspector's file shelves, \$6500; Library's computers; \$14,000.

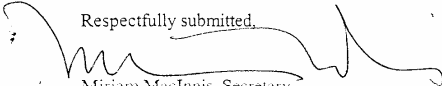
Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Judy, the Lewis, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend transferring \$69,980 to fund FY06 expenses requested under Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Jean Landis Naumann gave a financial analysis report showing the FY07 budget proposal has a deficit balance of \$802,106. There was discussion of whether to ask for an over ride question and of providing an explanation about it in the Finance Committee's booklet that will be sent to voters.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Miriam MacInnis, Secretary