

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
16 February 2006

Chairperson Jean Landis Naumann opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 16 February 2006. Also present were Frederick Baughman, Mathew Hamilton, Judythe Lewis, Maurice Simard, and Claire Soares. Richard Gardner and Jason Lelio were absent.

Chief of Police Rebello, Officer Maurice Splaine, and Administrative Assistant Mary Ann Musto met with the Committee to review the police department's FY07 budget request. There was much discussion of shift staffing and of the number of permanent-intermittent police officers that should be on the force.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously-

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$2,420,842 for the Police Department of which \$2,267,045 is to be expended for personal services and \$153,797, for expenses.

The Committee agreed to review the budget again later to reconsider the number of permanent-intermittent police officers that should be funded in FY07.

Town Treasurer John LaBrache met with the Committee to report there are seventy properties in tax title currently.

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

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$7,500 for tax-title expense.

The Committee reviewed with Mr. LaBrache the FY07 budget for his department. He noted that this year he is asking for \$217 for overtime to devote to a change over from the MUNIS system.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously-

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$135,125 for the Treasurer's department of which \$108,425 is to be expended for personal services and \$26,700, for expenses.

The Committee reviewed the budget requested for Employee Benefits. Mr. LaBrache proposed amending his original request of \$805,817 for Plymouth County's retirement assessment to \$907,260 and reported that the County has not yet offered to discount the assessment if the total amount were paid with a single payment when due.

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

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$2,903,631 for Employee Benefits of which \$2,846,031 is to be expended for personal services and \$57,600, for expenses.

There was discussion of savings resulting from the Treasurer's refinancing bonds. Mr. LaBrache reported that, by taking an aggressive approach on paying down outstanding debt, he expected \$465,000 of debt to be retired over the next five years.

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

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$3,126,183 for Retirement of Debt of which \$1,804,864 represents principal and \$1,353,835, interest.

There was discussion with the Treasurer pertaining to --

- rescinding unissued, authorized debt;
- of spending \$3,900 for a mail-inserting system for sending out checks;
- indirect costs for the Water Enterprise Fund voted on 9 February were incorrect and should be revoked.

There was discussion of FY07 salaries for elected officials and it was noted that the Town Clerk's salary will have reached its ceiling and that the Wage and Personnel Board has been asked to offer an advisory position on the Treasurer's salary.

There was discussion of Article 18 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant pertaining to combining the positions of Treasurer and Collector. Mr. LaBrache reported he is in favor of the article; the Collector is not. He noted the language of the article has been changed since originally proposed so as to provide for an appointed, not elected, Treasurer/Collector. Mr. LaBrache recommended that a professional be hired to fill the position if the article passes at town meeting.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 18 on the annual Warrant.

The Committee reviewed numbers submitted by the Treasurer for options for solid- waste management. It noted advice from the Town Administrator that the Finance Committee cannot create a subcommittee of members other than Finance Committee members. The Committee discussed asking the Selectmen to form such a committee to determine the needs of the Town relating to solid waste.

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

VOTED: To request the Board of Selectmen to create a committee to determine the long-term needs of and improvements possible at the transfer station; to investigate how other towns manage solid waste; to determine the costs of curbside collection and a pay-as-you-throw policy; and other related topics; and further

To appoint to said committee two members from the Finance Committee; two members from the Capital Planning Committee; a member of the Board of Selectmen or a designee; and, as exofficio members, the Town Treasurer, the Town Administrator, and the Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks who manages the Solid Waste Division.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion and a 5 to 0 to 1 vote, it was --

VOTED: To accept as submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2006.

Judythe Lewis abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

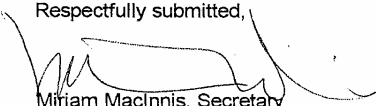
The Committee deferred action on the Fire Department's request for a transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund to cover the expense of repairs made to the ladder truck.

Jean Landis Naumann reported that a hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on 7 March 2006 at the Town Hall on the development being proposed off Marion Drive by Lloyd Geisenger.

It was agreed to schedule the Animal Control Officer at the next meeting and to ask the Wage and Personnel Board when it will be ready to meet with the Finance Committee.

There being no further vote or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Miriam MacInnis, Secretary