

TOWN OF KINGSTON

**MASSACHUSETTS
(draft)**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Minutes
12 November 2009**

Chairman Elaine Fiore opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 12 November 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Other members present were: Lawrence Hunt, David Lofstrom, and Claire Soares. Also attending was Town Administrator Jill Myers. Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, and Paul Ricci were absent.

The Town Administrator reported that—

- 99 percent of the FY11 budget requests were submitted on time;
- Departments are asking to keep fees by way of revolving funds which would reduce general revenues.

Mr. Hunt urged creating a revolving fund for the Harbormaster's department.

Town Collector Priscilla Palombo met with the Committee to report that tax-taking costs are more than last year; the cost of recording is \$578; she has only \$700 for FY08 tax-title takings and needs \$3,000 more; she anticipates forty or fifty takings in FY09 costing an estimated \$2,000. She requested a transfer from the Reserve Fund of \$3,542.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To transfer \$3,542 from the Reserve Fund to the Collector's budget of tax takings.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by David Lofstrom, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2009 as submitted.

The Committee discussed a transfer request for \$5,691.25 for emergency repairs to a grinder pump for the Reed Community Building which is not working satisfactorily.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To transfer \$5,691.25 from the Reserve Fund to the Recreation Commission's budget for emergency repairs to a grinder pump for the Reed Community Building.

There was discussion of the latest state-aid figure for Kingston of \$4,399,619 which reflects a reduction of \$1,058,695. The Committee estimated the Town will incur a deficit of \$320,000.

Ms. Meyers reported that --

- the IAFF and IBPO have opened negotiations;
- departments are budgeting 2% increases;
- departments are using furloughs as the basis for salary reductions.

There was discussion about –

- a proposal to change compensation paid to committee secretaries from annual salaries to an hourly wage;
- asking the Wage and Personnel Board about changing compensation from annual salaries paid to committee secretaries to an hourly wage;
- eliminating stipends for elected officials during which Elaine Fiore recused herself.
- reviewing liaison assignments during which Mr. Hunt said he wants to be the liaison to the Water Department.
- revising the FY11 budget schedule during the next meeting on 21 January 2010;
- how to reduce gasoline costs.

A discussion about whether to adopt a meal tax was deferred to a future meeting in order to receive information from the Town Treasurer.

Mr. Hunt proposed a discussion of the police, fire, and schools budgets prior to the liaison's review.

The Chairman reported –

- the Selectmen are making appointments to a five-member Town Government Study Committee and are seeking volunteers to serve;
- attending a meeting of the regional school's finance committees at which cuts were proposed.

The Committee discussed its FY11 departmental budget request.

There was no objection to Mr. Hunt's suggestion that the salary remain the same as in FY10 until the Wage and Personnel Board considers salaries for departmental secretaries.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by David Lofstrom, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend FY11 Finance Committee expense budget of \$500.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a FY11 Reserve Fund of \$100,000.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary

