

**TOWN OF KINGSTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes  
5 February, 2009

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 5 February 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore<sup>1</sup>, Lawrence Hunt, John LaBrache, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Jason Lelio was absent. Also present for the first part of the meeting were Selectman Sandy MacFarlane and Superintendent John Tuffy.

There was discussion of cutting 7 per cent from all departments' FY10 personal services budgets.

Wage and Personnel Board members present and voting Elizabeth White and Richard Gardner met with the Committee to discuss procedures for presenting to town meeting reduced salaries and wages for employees classified under their Board's bylaw. Larry Hunt asked the Board members present and voting to assess salaries for committee secretaries to determine if they are still valid for the time spent on the job.

Elaine Fiore reported on the February 4 meeting of Finance Committees from the Silver Lake Regional School Committee District, saying that Halifax's and Plympton's FY10 assessments will be reduced and that Kingston's will go up \$24,000:

John LaBrache reported that Kingston's assessment will be \$7,415,999 which includes excluded debt. He said that share is \$236,639 greater than he was anticipating and that the difference will have to be made up.

Mr. Tuffy left the meeting following the discussion.

Library Director Sia Stewart and Trustees Brian McWilliams, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Joyce Rossi, and Spencer Clough met with the Committee to discuss the Library's FY10 budget request. Ms. Stewart reported that the Governor wants no limit on the number of waivers granted to libraries this year that fail to appropriate the minimum amount for books required for certification. She said she will apply for such a waiver so she can make a 7 per cent reduction to the library budget without reducing hours of personnel. She reported an increased use of the library services.

She and the Trustees left the meeting following the discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Elaine Fiore left the meeting prior to the discussion on the Library budget.

Elaine Fiore made a motion to recommend a personal services budget of \$407,983 and an expense budget of \$113,513 for a total FY10 Library budget of \$521,496. The motion was seconded by Mathew Hamilton and, following discussion, the vote was recorded. Following a 3 to 3 vote, the motion failed. Opposed to the motion were Lawrence Hunt, John LaBrache, and Paul Ricci. Supporting it were Claire Soares, Elaine Fiore and Mat Hamilton.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To rescind the Committee's vote taken on 11 December 2008 to recommend a personal services budget of \$93 for a total FY10 budget of \$93 for the Moderator; and further

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$100 for a total FY10 budget of \$100 for the Moderator.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was—

**VOTED:** To deny a request to transfer the sum of \$2,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Assessors' personal services budget to pay an employee working out of classification.

Mathew Hamilton and Claire Soares opposed the motion; Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, and Paul Ricci supported it; John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion.

Fire Chief Robert Heath met with the Committee to review his department's FY10 budget request. He reported he –

- will try to keep the Smith's Lane Fire Station open as much as possible when he can staff it with a minimum of two firefighters without using overtime;
- he cannot cut overtime because the department must be able to call back staff to respond to simultaneous calls;
- a 7 per cent cut in his personnel budget means the loss of two firefighters and the whole call force;
- can reduce his line item for utilities when the Smith's Lane Fire Station is not open.

John LaBrache noted other proposed reductions for expenses and staff are shown in bold on the departmental budget sheet.

The Chief reported that he must buy fuel outside of the Town's fuel depot for the newest ambulance because bio-diesel fuel clogs its engine.

Chief Heath left the meeting following the review.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$1,508,078 and an expense budget of \$287,949 for a total FY10 budget of \$1,796,027 for the Fire Department.

The Committee reviewed other budget requests.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$108,740 and an expense budget of \$4,250 for a total FY10 budget of \$112,990 for the Inspection Services Department.

It was noted that the utility inspectors and part-time secretary are to be paid from a revolving fund.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$36,440 and an expense budget of \$9,275 for a total FY10 budget of \$45,715 for the Animal Control Department.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$110,335 and an expense budget of \$2,079 for a total

FY10 budget of \$112,414 for the Town Accountant's Department.

The Committee deferred voting on the Collector's budget until it receives input from the Technology Committee.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$102,899 and an expense budget of \$36,680 for a total FY10 budget of \$139,579 for the Town Treasurer's Department.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To recommend an expense budget of \$62,213 for a total FY10 budget of \$62,213 for Data Processing.

John LaBrache reported that the Treasurer's budget and its accompanying Data Processing budget as submitted exceeds the requested 7 per cent cut. He abstained from voting on both budgets. All other members present and voting supported both.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$121,505 and an expense budget of \$5,700 for a total FY10 budget of \$127,205 for the Town Clerk.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the budget; all other members present and voting supported it.

The Committee deferred voting on the Election and Registration budget until it receives more information pertaining to it.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$70,389 and an expense budget of \$4,110 for a total FY10 budget of \$74,499 for the Conservation Commission.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the budget; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was --

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$31,059 and an expense budget of \$6,311 for a total FY10 budget of \$37,370 for the Planning Board.

It was noted that the personal services budget proposed reflects the stipend for elected members being reduced to \$100 each.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the budget; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously --

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$110,000 for the FY10 legal budget.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously --

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$50,505 and an expense budget of \$125,000 for a total FY10 budget of \$175,505 for FY10 budget for Care of Municipal Property.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was—

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$2,283,276 and an expense budget of \$242,175 for a total FY10 budget of \$2,525,451 for the Police Department.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the budget; all other members present and voting supported it.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary