

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes **2 April 2009**

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:07 PM on 2 April 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Members present were Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, John LaBrache, Jason Lelio,¹ Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Also present were School Superintendent John Tuffy, Assistant School Superintendent Joy Blackwood, Elementary School Committee members Joseph Chaves and Christopher Mamakos, and Silver Lake Regional School Committee member John Creed.

John LaBrache reported on how a wage freeze would affect the level of town services and personnel. He reported the KTEU will meet on 15 April to vote on whether to accept a wage freeze.

Mr. LaBrache asked the Committee to let its 19 March vote that the Treasurer's salary be \$23,628 stand or, if not, to freeze it at the level it was three years ago. He left the meeting after that discussion.

It was reported that the Selectmen have already voted unanimously in favor of the Police Chief's applying for a Federal stimulus grant to save police positions for the next three years. The Finance Committee noted that receiving the funds would mean the town would be required to fund those positions for at least a year after the grant expires.

The Committee reviewed articles on the town meeting warrants. It deferred making a recommendation until 4 April on whether to add \$30,000 to the Fire Department's overtime budget in order to extend the opening of the Smith's Lane Fire Station as requested in Article 1 of the special town meeting. In the meantime, the Committee will ask the Chief for his budget balance.

There was a discussion with the Elementary School Committee and Superintendent about the availability of school figures after which Messrs. Chaves and Mamakos left the meeting.

John Creed advised the Committee that –

¹ Jason Lelio arrived at 7:25 PM and was present for all votes.

- the Chapter 70 number is not safe and later cuts might be needed;
- Plympton and Halifax are expected to accept the Regional Committee's budget figure;
- assessments on Plympton and Halifax will go down whereas Kingston's assessment will increase by \$22,879;
- Kingston's share of Silver Lake's budget is 54 per cent of the total;
- he is not sure the state will have a budget by 2 June.

There was discussion of the amount of the stimulus awards granted for education.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Elaine Fiore, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend \$7,399,219 for the Silver Lake Regional School District assessment of which \$6,533,435 is for the operating budget and \$865,784 for exempted debt.

The Superintendent distributed a memo pertaining to what is known about the Federal stimulus awards.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Elaine Fiore, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend appropriating 66,000 for the Silver Lake Regional Vocational School.

Pine duBois and Alex Mansfield met with the Committee to discuss two projects on the annual town meeting warrant requesting Community Preservation Funds: (1) the purchase and renovation of the Watson/Holmes Boat Yard on Landing Road and (2) removal of the dam at Triphammer and creating a town-owned park at the site.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Elaine Fiore, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Part 8 of Article 13 of the annual town meeting warrant pertaining to transferring \$59,599.48 of which \$49,323 shall be from community preservation funds for the Triphammer project subject to the addition of the following language to the motion: "These funds are contingent upon the awarding of additional grant funding covering the costs for final design and permitting of the river-restoration project, the receipt of which is anticipated in 2009."

Pine duBois reported there is already a conservation restriction recorded on the boatyard property and there was discussion of the Town's being granted a preservation restriction to assure the property is retained for historical purposes.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Claire Soares, it was —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on transferring \$75,000 of community preservation funds as requested in Part 6 of Article 13 of the annual town meeting warrant pertaining to the Holmes/Watson boatyard.

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

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, it was —

VOTED: To reconsider the Committee's vote on 19 March 2009 to recommend a FY10 salary of \$23,628 at Step 5 for the Treasurer; \$61,572 for the Town Clerk, and \$61,572 for the Town Collector.

Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent vote; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Paul Ricci, it was —

VOTED: To recommend a FY10 salary of \$16,314 for the Treasurer; \$61,572 for the Town Clerk, and \$61,572 for the Town Collector.

Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent vote; all other members present and voting supported it.

Waterfront Committee Chairman James Judge met with the Committee to discuss the Finance Committee's proposal for a revolving fund for Waterfront/Harbormaster in FY10 instead of a departmental budget. Mr. Judge left the meeting following that discussion.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, it was —

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2009 as submitted.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Paul Ricci, it was —

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 19
March 2009 as amended.

The Chairman called a meeting to be held on 23 April 2009 at 7 PM and asked that the Wage and Personnel Board obtain a full commitment from all groups classified under the personnel bylaw.

There was no further discussion or vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis
Secretary