

# TOWN OF KINGSTON

## MASSACHUSETTS

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### **Minutes** **21 May 2009**

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:05 PM on 21 May 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Other members present were: Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, Jason Lelio, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. John LaBrache was absent. Town Administrator Jill Meyers and Elementary School Committee member Christopher Marakos, School Superintendent John Tuffy, Fire Chief Robert Heath, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joy Blackwood, Assessor Nancy Shea. Selectman Sandy MacFarlane joined the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was –

**VOTED:** To reconsider a prior vote establishing a FY10 budget for the Kingston Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

Mathew Hamilton and Jason Lelio abstained from voting on the motion. All other members present and voting supported it.

Elaine Fiore reported that the Assessors have voted to transfer \$125,000 from Overlay Surplus to General Revenue.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To restore \$90,000 to the KIS/KES FY10 school budget and to recommend an appropriation of \$10,202,529 for the FY10 school budget.

Jill Meyers reported that negotiations with the IAFF have not yet concluded. She said that if the union does not accept a wage freeze for FY10 ten call firefighters would be laid off representing salaries of \$12,650 and two permanent firefighters, representing \$114,518 in salaries and \$130,000 in both salaries and benefits.

There was discussion of funding the Fire Department budget as if there would be no salary freeze. The Committee deferred recommending a number for unemployment benefits until John LaBrache returns.

There was discussion of funds available from overlay surplus.

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

**VOTED:** To add \$35,000 from Overlay Surplus to local receipts.

The Committee reviewed with the Town Administrator articles on the special town meeting warrant.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously--

To recommend favorable action on Article 1 of the special town meeting warrant which asks to add a sum of money to that voted under Article 1 of the 4 April 2009 special town meeting to supplement FY09 operating budgets.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend favorable action on Article 4 which asks for an appropriation in anticipation of reimbursement for Chapter 90 highway construction.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend favorable action on Article 7 which asks to provide an exemption for certain Massachusetts residents while deployed overseas with the military.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend favorable action on Article 8 which asks to provide an exemption for certain members of the Massachusetts National Guard and Reserves while deployed outside of the state.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend favorable action on Article 9 which asks to increase the income level for qualifying for the circuit-breaker credit allowed on the Massachusetts income tax.

There was discussion of questions raised by the Water Department about the amounts recommended for the Water Department's FY10 budget.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009 as submitted.

Jason Lelio and Claire Soares abstained from voting on the motion; all others present and voting supported it.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2009 as submitted.

Mathew Hamilton and Jason Lelio abstained from voting on the motion; all others present and voting supported it.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary