

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes **1 June 2009**

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:05 PM on 01 June 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Members present were Elaine Fiore, John LaBrache, Paul Ricci, Jason Lelio and Lawrence Hunt and Claire Soares. Also present were Town Administrator Jill Myers; Selectmen Sandra MacFarlane, Dennis Randall, Richard Arruda, Mark Beaton and Paul Gallagher. Also present was the new Town Moderator, Janet Wallace.

The Selectmen left shortly after our meeting began, and returned at a later time.

Robert Kostka, Chairman of the Water Commissions was present, along with Water Superintendent Matthew J. Darsch, to express his concern with his proposed FY10 budget. Elaine Fiore recused herself from participation in the discussion that followed. He said there is a discrepancy between water revenue estimated last fall when the budget was done and the revenue actually received. They are looking at a shortfall. Asked about revenue collected to date, they reported about \$1,200,000.00, with some \$200,000.00 uncollected at this time. One quarter of this is water. They are using shutoff notices, and this seems to bring in the money. They will be sending out another billing prior to June 30th, which will include balances carried forward prior to this bill.

There seems to be a concern with the Town Accountant, and the Department of Revenue. Members of the Committee did not seem concerned, and feel that they should continue to use shut-off notices on their over due accounts, and keep us informed.

Elaine Fiore returned to the committee table.

Upon a motion by John LaBrache and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion and a 5 to 2 vote, it was____

VOTED: To recommend Article 3 of the Special Town Meeting regarding petition of the General Court for a special act providing that the legislation be adopted as set forth below, An Act Authorizing the Department of Highways and the Town of Kingston to exchange certain parcels of land. This is in regard to the slip ramp.

Elaine Fiore and Larry Hunt opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2009 as amended.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all others present and voting supported it.

Selectmen Paul Gallagher informed the Committee that the Firefighters had accepted a wage freeze, and we needed to fund the position taken out back into the budget. This amounts to \$90,000.00.

Upon a motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Larry Hunt, following discussion, and a 6 to 1 vote, it was ---

VOTED: To increase the use of Local Receipts from 85% to 86%.

This will free up \$35,000.00.

Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To reduce Employee Benefits by \$16,000.

This is due to Firefighters freezing their contracts.

Elaine Fiore moved to reduce Snow and Ice by the amount of \$25,000. However there was no second. Therefore no action under this motion.

Paul Ricci passed out a spreadsheet showing KES/KIS facts regarding budgets from 2000 to 2008, which shows an increase of 7.3%. Only budgets that increased this much. Jason stated that the increase includes Special Needs “K – to age 23) which is 7.9 % this year alone.

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

VOTED: To reduce Kingston Elementary School by \$15,000,
from \$10,202,529 to \$10,187,529.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion and a 6 to 1 vote, it was –

VOTED: To reduce Personal Services of the Police Department by \$24,000.

John LaBrache voted no. All other voted in the affirmative.

With no further business to attend to, a motion was made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci to adjourn at 8:09 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Claire Soares