

TOWN OF KINGSTON
MASSACHUSETTS
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
26 January 2006

Chairperson Jean Landis Naumann opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 26 January 2006. Also present were Frederick Baughman, Richard Gardner, Mathew Hamilton, Judythe Lewis, Maurice Simard, and Claire Soares. Jason Lelio was absent.

Veterans' Agent William Martin met with the Committee to review his FY07 budget request. He addressed an increase in mandated medical benefits and reported having spent \$62,000 to date for them. He submitted a request for a transfer from the Reserve Fund of \$44,000 to cover such benefits. He advised the Committee he is cutting back on other expenses and is chasing reimbursements from other agencies.

Upon motion made by Jean Landis Naumann and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget for the Veterans' Agent of \$130,753 of which \$29,383 shall be used for personal services and \$101,370 for expenses.

Upon motion made by Jean Landis Naumann and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To approve a request for a transfer of \$24,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Veterans' Agent expense budget to be expended for benefits for veterans.

Pine duBois met with the Committee to request funding in FY07 for the Open Space Committee. She reported the Committee's dues have increased and that it is seeking grants for maintenance of open spaces in Kingston.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$2,398 for the Open Space Committee to be used for expenses.

Fire Chief David McKee met with the Committee to review his FY07 budget request and Frederick Baughman and Maurice Simard, liaisons to the Fire Department, reviewed their findings for the Committee. Together, they explained items for which increases are requested including –

- a request for an additional \$5,000 to meet increases in billing costs for the ambulance;
- a 2.8 contractual increase for salaries;
- energy costs;
- building maintenance.

There was discussion of whether Entergy can contribute funds for these expenses.

A motion was made by Maurice Simard and seconded by Mathew Hamilton to recommend a personal services budget of \$1,539,157 for the Fire Department and \$211,783 for expenses.

The motion was amended upon motion by Jean Landis Naumann, seconded by Frederick Baughman, to increase the expense budget to \$213,583 by adding \$1,200 for telephone billing and \$600 for dues and meetings. The amendment was voted unanimously.

The motion was further amended upon motion by Richard Gardner, seconded by Mathew Hamilton to add \$11,360 to the personal service budget to pay for overtime during training sessions. During discussion on the motion, Mathew Hamilton proposed tabling the overtime cost until 16 March 2002 and Judythe Lewis suggested phasing the cost in over two years. The Chief said that training could be extended over a two-year period with all staff members receiving training each year for a cost of \$5,680 per year. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Hamilton agreed to reduce the \$11,360 requested in their motion to \$5,680 and the amendment was voted unanimously.

Upon motion made by Maurice Simard and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, and subsequently amended, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget for the Fire Department of \$1,758,420 of which \$1,544,837 is to be expended for personal services and \$213,583 for expenses.

The Chief reported that funds requested in the equipment article for cold-water diving would be used for the whole staff of eight firefighters. He also reported he is asking Entergy to fund space for KEMA.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Frederick Baughman, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget for KEMA of \$978 to be expended for expenses.

Town Clerk Mary Lou Murzyn met with the Committee and reviewed with it her FY07 budget requests. She reported that her salary budget included only contractual increases.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Jean Landis Naumann, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget for the Town Clerk of

\$120,573 of which \$114,223 is to be expended for personal services and \$6,350 for expenses.

The Committee reviewed with the Town Clerk her requests for a FY07 appropriation for elections and registrations. She reported having to prepare for four elections and needing additional funding for a touch screen for hearing-impaired voters in order to meet an unfunded mandate for accessibility.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Frederick Baughman, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget for Elections and Registrations of \$45,061 of which \$23,812 is to be expended for personal services and \$21,249 for expenses.

The Town Clerk was advised that ten additional, mandated voting booths are to be included in the equipment article. She reported that the special town election held in December cost \$6,627.92 and she was advised to submit a transfer request for that amount.

The Committee reviewed its schedule and asked that the Town Planner meet with it at 8 PM on 9 February 2006.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Richard Gardner, following discussion, it was unanimously--

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

The secretary was asked to contact the print shop at the Plymouth County House of Correction to ask whether it can print the Finance Committee's booklet for the annual town meeting.

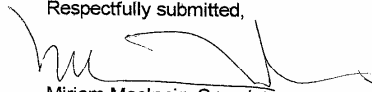
There was discussion about whether a stabilization fund can be created for the cost of snow and ice removal.

It was noted that the Chairperson will confer with the Town Treasurer about capital proposals and with the Highway Superintendent on costs for curbside collections.

The Committee discussed the Governor's proposed increase in local aid as reported in the Quincy Patriot Ledger.

There being no further discussion or votes, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Miriam MacInnis, Secretary