

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

5 January 2006

A meeting of the Kingston Finance Committee was opened by Chairperson Jean Landis Naumann at 7:30 PM at the Kingston Town Hall on 5 January 2006. Also present were Frederick Baughman, Richard Gardner, Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, Judythe Lewis, and Maurice Simard.

The Committee met with Inspector of Buildings Paul Armstrong to review the FY07 budget request for inspection services. He noted that he is requesting less for personal services because a revolving fund has been established to pay the utility inspectors from fees collected. The Committee advised Mr. Armstrong that his \$6,500 request for file shelves would be included in the equipment article presented at town meeting rather than in his budget.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Maurice Simard, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$128,924 for the Building Inspector's budget of which \$119,074 is to be expended for personal services and \$9,850 for expenses.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To declare that due to the depletion of the FY06 appropriation for snow and ice removal, an emergency exists causing the Town to incur liability, and that in the interest of public safety and in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D, the Town is required to make expenditures for snow and ice removal in excess of the available snow and ice appropriation for the year FY2006.

The Committee, joined by Town Accountant Joan Paquette, discussed the advisability of appropriating in FY07 more than the FY06 appropriation of \$68,299 for snow and ice removal while still being in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D.

The Committee reviewed with the Town Accountant her FY07 budget request for her department.

Upon motion made by Richard Gardner and seconded by Judythe Lewis, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$108,493 for the Town Accountant's budget of which \$105,545 is to be expended for personal services and \$2,948 for expenses.

Ms. Paquette noted that a step increase request is pending before the Wage and Personnel Board. She handed out a copy of her FY05 turn-back schedule to the Committee.

Because of illness, the COA Director was unable to attend the meeting and her request to reschedule her appointment was noted. The Committee reviewed her FY07 budget request. The Chairperson said she would contact Ms. Boyce to see if she accepted the Committee's recommendation or whether she wishes to meet to discuss it.

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

VOTED: To recommend a FY07 appropriation of \$159,660 for the budget for the Council on Aging of which \$141,485 is to be expended for personal services and \$18,175 for expenses.

The Committee canceled the meeting it scheduled on 12 January 2006 and rescheduled it on 19 January 2006. Mr. Hamilton said he would advise the Superintendent of Streets, Trees, and Parks of the change and that the Committee would review his budgets on that evening.

There was discussion of putting the Finance Committee Minutes on the website Mr. Baughman is overseeing.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Superintendent of Schools Dana Parker, forwarded by the Town Administrator, pertaining to a newly created Ad Hoc Regionalization Study Committee. Judythe Lewis noted that the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee, as voted, is different from that originally proposed. Responding to the Town Administrator's query of whether a member of the Finance Committee would like to be appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee, the Finance Committee discussed whether the Finance Committee liaisons to the School Department, Frederick Baughman and Judythe Lewis, could be appointed.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Richard Gardner, following discussion, it was unanimously--

VOTED: To advise the Town Administrator that the Finance Committee would support Frederick Baughman and Judythe Lewis being appointed by the Board of Selectmen as co-members (primary and alternate) of the Ad Hoc Regionalization Study Committee.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2005 as amended.

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Mathew Hamilton reported that the Open Space Committee has requested no funds for FY07 and that he was unable to reach Pine duBois to discuss a budget for that Committee.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Richard Gardner, following discussion, it was unanimously--

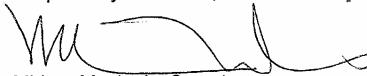
VOTED: To recommend a FY07 budget of \$0.00 for the Open Space Committee.

There was discussion of public works items that will be discussed with Superintendent Basler at the Finance Committee's next meeting including replacement of the control room at the transfer station. Richard Gardner reported that the Capital Planning Committee will be reviewing a proposal for curbside trash collection.

Mr. Gardner submitted for review a document entitled "FY06 and FY07 Levy Comparisons." He noted a possible \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 deficit. Topics of discussion included setting realistic fees; how federal and state funds are determined and resources available as reported in the Finance Committee Handbook.

There being no further vote or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Miriam MacInnis, Secretary