

**TOWN OF KINGSTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Minutes
29 April 2010**

Chairman Elaine Fiore opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:00 PM on 29 April 2010 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio, David Lofstrom, Lawrence Hunt, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Town Administrator Jill Myers and Town Treasurer John LaBrache also attended.

Fire Chief Robert Heath met with the Committee to discuss his department's FY11 budget proposal and the expense budget for the Kingston Emergency Management Agency.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend appropriating an expense budget of \$873 for a total FY11 KEMA budget of \$873.

The Chief explained that he—

- is attempting to network his computers with those in the Town Clerk's office for coordination of inspections with recorded business licenses;
- is proposing to use \$3,000 to participate with Duxbury and Marshfield for the shared use of an ambulance so he can charge for transporting patients which he cannot do if he calls on another town for mutual aid when all three of his ambulances are in use;
- is filling one firefighter position that he thought was lost;
- is paying more for gasoline;
- is investigating paying \$66,000 per year to lease two chassis for fire trucks since the override question was defeated;
- described modifications needed if the town bought a gasoline/diesel engine.

Mathew Hamilton reported that the Capital Planning Committee will discuss his proposal for leasing the chassis at its next meeting.

The Fire Chief left the meeting following the discussion.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by David Lofstrom, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend that voters appropriate a personal services budget of \$1,607,284 and an expense budget of \$309,560, for a total FY11 Fire Department budget of \$1,916,844.

The Chairman reported that the Sewer Department gave a new grinder pump to the Recreation Commission when the one it had failed and that it is now asking for \$1,475 to cover repairs to their sewage system.

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

VOTED: To transfer \$1,475 from the Reserve Fund to the Recreation Department's expense budget for repairs to its sewage system.

Police Chief Joseph Rebello, Lt. Maurice Splaine, and their secretary, Laura Casey-Pupek met with the Committee to discuss the Police Department's FY11 budget proposal. Chief Rebello reported that –

- Wage and Personnel salaries include funding for the secretary and the animal inspector;
- he lost two officers and a dispatcher in previous years whose positions were never filled;
- computer repairs for his department are twice as much as the Finance Committee allowed for that expense;
- he expects a 5-per cent increase on the ten-year, lease-purchase agreement he has for his information-management system;
- \$140,000 arbitration award is due police officers for FY08;
- he needs overtime money for replacement of injured officers;
- he foregoes required training for officers in CPR, First Responder, and Firearms training in order to use the training money to cover overtime for patrolmen and sergeants.

The Committee discussed the possible liability risk associated with foregoing mandated training. Lawrence Hunt suggested the Committee vote its FY11 numbers and that the Chief submit a new FY11 budget next week of exactly what he would need, with explanations, to cover all costs

The Chief and others left the meeting following the discussion.

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

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$2,258,456 for the Police Department's FY11 personal services budget.

Mathew Hamilton reported that the Capital Planning Committee will discuss at its next meeting the Chief's request to obtain through a lease-purchase agreement three vehicles at \$12,900 each. There was discussion of recommending one patrol car at \$12,900 and putting a new line item for it in the Police budget.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Paul Ricci, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$240,372 for the Police Department's FY11 expense budget and a total FY11 Police budget of \$2,498,828.

Wage and Personnel Board members Elizabeth White and Richard Gardner were present to discuss their recommendations with the Committee but were rescheduled to 6 May when the discussion with the Police Chief extended beyond their appointment time.

The Chairman proposed a discussion of allocated costs on 6 May and a meeting to be held on 13 May to clean up remaining budgets.

The Committee again reviewed the Water Department budget noting that funding for sick leave should be restored.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Paul Ricci, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend appropriating a personal services budget of \$462,315 and an expense budget of \$368,768 to include \$15,000 for leak detection and \$6,000 for manganese removal, for a total FY11 Water Department operating budget of \$831,083.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following the discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend appropriating \$615,000 for the Water Department's debt service and \$173,993 for allocated costs, for a total FY11 Water Department Enterprise Fund of \$1,620,076.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary