

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

15 March 2007

Chairperson Judythe Lewis opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 15 March 2007 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Frederick Baughman, Elaine Fiore, Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio and Claire Soares. Town Treasurer John LaBrache, School Superintendent Dana Parker, Assistant School Superintendent Joy Blackwood, Business Manager John Tuffy, Regional School Committeeman John Creed, Elementary School Committeeman Joseph Chaves, and Selectman Paul Gallagher also attended the meeting.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a FY08 K
through 6 school budget of \$10,138,328.

It was estimated that the \$10,138,328 will require an override of \$736,220 and a tax increase of \$148.07. Ms. Lewis noted the amount does not include an additional custodian requested.

There was discussion of phasing in full-day kindergarten starting in FY08; the addition of one teacher and an aide with benefits; custodial staff for KES and

KIS; and the cost of out-of-district programs and placement for special education.

John Tuffy reported on fee schedules at KES and Silver Lake and said the Silver Lake Committee will review the fee schedule for the new school. Ms. Blackwood reported that the Region has applied for two \$30,000 grants and expects they will be awarded; and that the Kingston Youth Soccer Committee has offered a donation for field maintenance. Paul Gallagher stated that KYSC will be seeking use of the fields for the donation.

Judythe Lewis asked Mr. Chaves to report on the impact a failure to pass the override question would have on the elementary school. She advised that, although recommended by the Finance Committee, the Selectmen will decide whether the override question will be presented as five questions. Judythe Lewis noted that General Government's share of the proposed override would be \$73,000; for Public Safety, \$215,700; for Public Works, \$73,300.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend an FY08 appropriation of \$66,000 for vocational education.

There was discussion of Kingston's share of the regional school budget. Ms. Lewis reported that –

- the \$7,493,270 includes excluded debt;
- Kingston's assessment reflects its higher student enrollment and fewer students in Halifax and Plympton.
- the formula for assessment is based on the kind of community and individual's ability to pay;
- only the General Court can change the formula;
- it is expected that Halifax and Plympton will accept the Silver Lake number.

. Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following

discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend an FY08 Regional School assessment of \$7,493,270.

School representatives left the meeting following that discussion.

There was discussion of salaries for elected official from which Elaine Fiore recused herself and did not vote on the following motion.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion and a 5 to 0 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend an FY08 salary increase of \$3,444 for the Town Collector, of \$1,461 for the Town Clerk, and \$2,260 for Town Treasurer to fund the step increases to which each is entitled.

All members except Elaine Fiore supported the motion.

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

VOTED: To rescind the Committee's vote of 15 February 2007 recommending that voters at the annual town meeting reduce from 3 to 2 per cent the surcharge currently in effect under the terms of the Community Preservation Act and to make a motion that the surcharge be reduced to 1 percent in keeping with the scope of warrant article 43.

The Committee reviewed articles on the special town meeting warrant.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Fred Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action Article 1 pertaining to supplemental FY07 appropriations.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Fred Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 1 pertaining to supplemental FY07 appropriations.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on appropriating \$371,155 for Chapter 90 highway work as stated in Article 2.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Fred Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend appropriating \$10,000 for the Community Preservation Act Committee as stated in Article 3.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend borrowing
\$350,000 for water main work as stated in Article 4.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Claire Soares,
following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend taking easements
as stated in Article 5.

The Committee deferred making a recommendation on Article 6 until town
meeting.

The Committee reviewed articles on the annual town meeting warrant.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by Mathew Hamilton,
following discussion and a 5 to 0 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Articles 7 and 8.

Elaine Fiore recused herself from discussing and voting on the motion. All others
present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares,
following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 14.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 15.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 16.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 17.

It was noted that Article 18 was voted in the budget.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 19.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 20.

During discussion on Article 21, it was reported that the CPA Committee proposes appropriating \$1.8 million for acquisition of the MacFarlane property.

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

VOTED: To recommend splitting the question on Article 21.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 22.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 23.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Articles 24 and 25.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 26.

It was noted that Articles 27 and 28 are Finance Committee articles and were previously voted.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 29.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 30.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Articles 31 and 32.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 33.

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

VOTED: To make the Finance Committee's recommendation on Article 34 at town meeting.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 35.

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

VOTED: To make the Finance Committee's recommendation on Articles 36 through 39 at town meeting.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To make the Finance Committee's recommendation on Articles 40 and 41 at town meeting.

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

VOTED: To recommendation unfavorable action on Article 42.

It was noted that the Committee changed its recommendation on Article 43 earlier during this meeting.

Upon motion made by Frederick Baughman and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To make recommend favorable action on Article 44.

The Committee deferred its recommendation on Articles 45 and 46.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 47.

There was no motion on Article 48 since services provided by the South Shore Women's Center will be funded from the Prince Fund.

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

VOTED: To make the Finance Committee's recommendation on Article 49 at town meeting.

There was no motion on Article 50 since it has been reported there will be no motion on the article.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Frederick Baughman, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 51.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2007 as corrected.

Judythe Lewis reported there was a meeting with the Selectmen on 13 March 2007; therefore the scheduled meeting on 27 March is canceled.

There being no further vote or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary