

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes – February 10, 2014
Town Hall, Lower Level Hearing Room, 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Patricia-Lee Achorn, Arnold Cohen (late), Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman,
Alexander Korin, Ira Miller, Edward Philips (late), Hamilton
Absent: Aaron Agulnek, William Brack, Laura Nelson

1. Ira Miller filled in as Chair for Bill Brack who was unavailable.
2. The first item on the agenda was a review of the DPW and Water Department budgets with Eric Hooper, Superintendent of the DPW.
3. Eric Hooper gave an overview of the DPW's FY'15 operating budget of \$2,916,692 with a 2% increase in salaries and an overall change of 2.12%.
4. There was much discussion on this budget and questions on revenue from rentals at the Community Center. Town residents use the facility and are not being charged with the cost of maintaining the building. Also discussion on Snow & Ice budget and maintenance of vehicles. Water Department was working on water main pipe replacement.
5. The next item on the agenda was Fire Chief James Wright to give an overview, then specifics on the FY'15 Fire and Ambulance budget.
6. Chief Wright indicated a 2.4% overall increase. Salaries and actual expense, \$2,235,605. Revenue from Ambulance was \$750,000.
7. There was some discussion on the Fire budget.
8. The next item was Chief Joseph Bernstein and the Police Department budget.
9. Chief Bernstein stated that the budget is up 2.2%.
10. There was some discussion on the Police budget.
11. There was some discussion on how grant money comes in without the Finance Committee knowing how much. There was a suggestion to get an accounting on grants from Cindy Doherty.
12. The next item was Bill Fowler, Treasurer-Collector/Finance Director, reporting on those budgets under his control: Accounting Department, increased to 4%, and Assessors, increased to 2.6%.
13. There was discussion regarding his retirement, and he stated that the Selectmen asked him to stay through the Annual Town Meeting. He indicated that the Assistant Collector, Assistant Treasurer, and Cindy Doherty on Finance, could handle the department until someone was hired.

14. Ben Puritz continued the budget with the Selectmen's Sector reporting overall 2.38% increase per Priorities Committee and a net down of 4.92%.
15. There was some discussion regarding debt payment. Also, Lauren Barnes, the Selectmen's Office Manager, would be doing procurement and personnel administration.
16. The next item was an update on the Warrant articles.
17. Chuck Goodman announced that the Finance Committee Nominating Committee has four positions open on the Finance Committee. Two are current members. They are looking for two new members for the committee.
18. The next meeting will be February 24, 2014.
19. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
20. **VOTED:** 7-0-0.
21. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.