

**Finance Committee Meeting  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 7:20PM. Present were Mr. Zukauskas, Mr. Yohalem, Ms. Mielke, Mr. Imberman, Mr. Herrick, Mr. Dowling and Mrs. Spaulding. Ms. Tara White, selectman and Mr. ~~Storti~~ <sup>Zukauskas</sup> were guests.

Minutes for March 9th were accepted as read. Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> accepted unanimously.

The following budgets were reviewed:-

- Roads and Bridges Salaries** 20422.03 (\$207,335) now requesting [\$237,629] Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Roads and Bridges** 20422.05 (\$184,500) level funded [\$184,500] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Highway Department Training Expenses** 20422.07 (\$1,000) level funded [\$1,000] Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Zukauskas 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Electricity** 20422.15 (\$5,500) level funded [\$5,500] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Propane** 20422.18 (\$10,000) now requesting [\$16,000] Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Diesel** 20422.19 (\$45,000) now requesting [\$50,000] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Uniforms and Gear** 20422.78 (\$6,800) now requesting [\$2,000] Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Zukauskas 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Winter roads** 20423.07 (\$243,756) now requesting [\$233,675] Mr. Dowling 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Zukauskas 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Garage Maintenance** 20425.02 (\$7,600) now requesting [\$9,000] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Machinery Expense** 20428.00 (\$59,800) now requesting [\$62,790] Mr. Dowling 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Administrator Salary** \$60,000 Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed with Mr. Herrick voting against this salary.
- Library Salaries** 50610.02 (\$47,612) now requesting [\$48,880] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Medicare** 90917.00 (\$10,300) now requesting [\$9,500] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Dowling 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- Highway Truck 2011 Loan** 80750.11 requesting [\$21,346] Mr. Herrick 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Zukauskas 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- SBRSD Capital Budget** 30001.00 (\$90,160) now requesting [\$25,806] members were reminded that last year the school's new building loan was completely paid; this amount was New Marlborough's share of the money needed for "capital expenses and repairs". Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.
- SBRSD Operating Budget** 30000.01 (\$2,102,828) now requesting [\$2,296,867] there was some discussion about this increase which is substantial {9.8%}. The number of

students is falling and yet this school increase is presented to the towns. Ms. White stated that the selectmen had decided to place the increase of this budget namely \$193,093 as an override and allow the voters to decide whether they wished to pay it. The Finance Committee voted to support a level funded budget namely [\$2,103,828] Mr. Zukauskas 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Police Cruiser** [\$35,000] this item created a lot of discussion. Mr. Herrick stated that he had given the request some thought. He stated that while Mr. Farrell had selected a sedan because it would get better gas mileage, he felt that the sedan which would be a Taurus would have a "uni-body" and thus not be as rugged as the present four wheel drive which did have a truck body. Added to this he also felt that the police might need a four wheel drive throughout the year. Mr. Farrell's suggestion was that the town purchase the sedan and keep and maintain the present 4 wheel drive vehicle for needy situations and perhaps throughout the winter when it was needed. This would result in paying the insurance and maintenance on two police vehicles. Mr. Herrick stated that if the town were only to have one vehicle it should be a four wheel vehicle similar to the present one. The Committee returned the police car budget to Mr. Farrell as asked that he present a budget with a four wheel drive vehicle similar to the present vehicle.

The Committee spent some time reviewing Mr. Farrell's Police Salaries budget in which he requested an increase in police presence in New Marlborough. This budget involved reducing the Police Chief's hours, maintaining the hours for the part-time (existing) Police Officer and hiring another part time (28 hours per week) Police Officer. This would result in a sizeable raise in the Police Salaries Budget.

Mr. Herrick stated that at the joint meeting with the selectmen on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> Mr. Farrell stated that there had been over five hundred 911 calls this past year, averaging almost 2 a day. Mr. Herrick stated that this number of calls justified increasing the police presence in the town. Mr. Imberman questioned the nature of these calls. Mr. Herrick stated that each call required action. Thus in summary, Mr. Herrick stated that he supported the increase of the extra policeman for 28 hours per week. The committee looked at the figures that Mr. Farrell had presented and noted that these figures did not include any of the benefits that the policeman working 28 hours would be entitled to, so the Committee returned the Police Salaries Budget to Mr. Farrell and asked that he present it with the figures for the benefits included and come before the committee next Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Herrick suggested that the two Police budgets, one that would remain with the same number of men and hours that exist this year (with the 2% increase in salaries) and the proposed budget which would include the chief, the part time officer and the officer working 28 hours be presented to the voters at the Town Meeting and allow them to decide whether they wished to increase the police presence in the town and pay for it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM. The next meeting will be March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 2011