

# Finance Committee Meeting

## April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mr. David Herrick presiding, with Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Mr. Burt Imberman, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding in attendance. Guests were Mr. Michael Skorput, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem and Mr. Scott Farrell.

The minutes from March 28th were distributed at 6:58PM, and were accepted as amended. Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

A request was made by the Town Clerk to transfer \$650 to the Election Expenses Account [10162.00] from the Reserve Fund to cover the cost of paper ballots, and for the ballots and disc for the handicap machine! Mr. Imberman asked how many people used the handicap machine, and Mr. Herrick stated no one had used it so far; however we are legally required to have it available should a handicapped voter need it. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The committee was given a stack of salaries of town employees with their increases included. Mr. Herrick stated that the committee had exercised its role when they had voted the 2 ¼% increases to be divided by the department heads on the basis of merit. There was some discussion about some of the budgets which reflected more than the 2 ¼% increases. It was decided that the salary increases would be reviewed at the close of the budget if the budget needed to be trimmed to bring it under 2 ½ and the selectmen might decide on specific budgets that they considered should be elevated beyond the 2 ¼ %.

Constable Salaries [60211.00] (\$475) level funded {\$475} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Town Hall Expenses [101192.70] {\$35,000} now requesting {\$38,000} Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing [70524.00] (\$600) level funded {\$600} this represents the town's part of the group purchasing and is in essence an assessment. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

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Having completed the budgets the group turned its attention to the "Warrant" items to be placed outside 2 ½.

**Veterans Benefit Trust** (\$8,000) this fund was established to meet the needs of veterans rather than have them seek help through public welfare. The state set up this method of support after the Civil War, under chapter 115. Veterans seek help and the state refunds the town the amount at the end of the fiscal year. Should there be no need this fund will be able to be carried over from year to year. This amount will be taken from Free Cash. Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Highway Truck**, Mr. Marks, Highway Superintendent discussed this truck with the Finance Committee at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (\$86,000) Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Highway Loader** ((\$78000) the purchase of this new loader was also discussed with the Finance committee on February 13<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Fire Truck** (\$560,000) this fire truck was requested by Fire Chief Peter Scala last year, but not accepted by the voters. Because Mr. Herrick serves on the Fire Company Mr. Imberman asked him if the truck that had major repairs this past fall would it be still serviceable. Mr. Herrick replied that he did not have enough knowledge to answer that question. Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf passed unanimously.

**Town Hall/Renovations** (\$45,000) (this budget item was passed by the Finance Committee at their March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting). These renovations will include an elevator, fixing the front stairs and making the bathrooms handicapped accessible. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Police Software** (to be taken out of Free Cash) (\$18,685). Mr. Farrell discussed this software program stating that it was designed to expedite reporting of police work, both entering data but also helping the maintenance of accurate files for the state. The sheriff's office will do most of the program's maintenance; with the exception should our computer experience problems. The program will be used by the police, fire and EMT's and the data will be safely stored in the main section at the sheriff's office! The yearly maintenance fee will be about \$2,000, but this will not have to be paid the first year when it is installed. Mrs. Spaulding questioned about the training of the various staff to use this machine, to which Mr. Farrell stated that he had allowed for time spent on the training in his budget. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**County Road Drainage** (\$10,000) Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

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