

## Finance Committee Minutes

### March 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Present with Mr. David Herrick presiding, were Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Mark Carson, Ms. Pat Mielke, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Guests were Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, Ms. Tara White, Mrs. Michele Shalaby and Mr. Chuck Loring.

Because Mr. Loring was present to discuss the highway trucks, and the fire truck the reading of the minutes was put aside. The truck with an engine MACK MP7-405M a front axle 20,000 FXL20, specific tires and ratings, the acquisition cost would be \$119,787, the other truck would be a ford F-550 chassis cab, the price being \$43,180 plus \$50,000 for the package of a front fisher snowplow with central hydraulic system plow lights combination dump body with slide in sander, light package totaling \$93,000. This truck Mr. Loring stated would be most serviceable and would be able to plow and sand some of the dirt roads very effectively

Mr. Loring discussed the possible purchase of an extended warranty on the larger truck. The committee suggested that he get a copy of the proposed warranty and allow Mr. Carson and Mr. Imberman to examine it. Mr. Loring stated that the stainless steel bodies although expensive proved money saving in the end. The cost of the warranty could be added to the cost of the truck but not used at the time of the purchase. Mr. Loring stated that a smaller International would not stand up to the demands put on the larger truck and he would not recommend purchasing it.

There were no papers regarding the fire truck. Mr. Loring did say that the truck they wished to purchase was similar in every way possible to the 23 year old truck that is now in service. Some of the 23 year old truck's features are not available now, but the new truck would have a stainless steel body as does the old truck and added to this are many newer features. When questioned about refurbishing the old truck he stated that he thought it might cost up to \$300,000. When Mrs. Spaulding asked if the old truck would reduce the cost as a "trade in", Mr. Loring stated that it would have to be sold privately and probably would only bring about \$20,000. Many of these old trucks are sold to Caribbean countries. Mr. Loring again stated that he was concerned about the safety of this old truck, if he has firemen in a burning building and the truck fails he fears what would happen.

When questioned about the life expectancy of the new truck he stated that it should last 20 year. The "tanker" bought in 2002 is expected to last another 15 years! Added to this there is the possibility of getting a 10 year loan, rather than a five year loan which would reduce the yearly payments. It was pointed out that the longer the loan, the higher the interest!

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Mr. Yohalem stated that he had tried to contact a gentleman who was effective in getting fire trucks for less than the quoted amount. Some discussion about this possibility took place, and Mr. Yohalem will explore this further before the Town Warrant is printed.

A motion was made that all three vehicles be placed separately on the town warrant subject to the various prices, with the inclusion of an extended warranty in the price of one of the trucks. Ms. Mielke 1s, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The Committee then turned to discuss the proposed Building Inspectors request for a building permit computer program to be purchased for the town. At the Meeting of March 13<sup>th</sup> the committee voted to support the purchase of this program. However, Mr. Carson stated that he had talked to several in town building inspectors who were not in favor of this program and found that by dealing directly with the building inspector their jobs went more smoothly. Some of these contractors had dealt with the use of this program in other towns and found it cumbersome, the questions the inspectors had about a project were sent back and forth by e-mail and took more time and were more complicated than the visit to the office of the building inspector. Upon further discussion the Building Inspector's Computer program for \$7,400 which was passed March 13<sup>th</sup> would be rescinded.

A motion was made to withdraw the recommendation for the purchase of the **Building Inspector's Computer Program** costing \$7,400, Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

At the meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Pshenishny had brought a request for the **Assessors Cyclical Re-Inspection** for \$10,000. She had presented the letter from the state mandating this activity. However the committee had already passed a \$15,000 to the **Assessors Reval**[10142.00] account and \$4,340.70 to the **Assessors Computer Software** [10141.44] support account and the e-mail bill from Paul Kapino whose company does the assessing did not reflect the money put aside in these other accounts. Mrs. Spaulding had spent some time with Mrs. Pshenishny and once this information was processed the committee made a motion to pass the **Assessor's Cyclical Reinspection Account** [No number available as it is a new account] for {\$10,000} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The minutes of the meeting held on March 13<sup>th</sup> were circulated. At that time Mrs. Spaulding reported that she had had a discussion with Mr. Skorput about the **Group Insurance Account** [90914.70]. At that meeting Mr. Skorput has requested \$137,000 with an assessment of \$132,000 for FYI 2015. The committee had voted \$132,000. However Mr. Skorput explained that he had requested \$137,000 in case one of the employees of the town chose to take medical insurance from the town instead of using their own. Upon that information the

minutes were amended to reflect this information and a motion was made to grant the Group Insurance {\$137,000} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mileke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The **Southern Berkshire Regional School Operating** [3000.01] (\$2,316,701) now requesting {\$2,425,293}, it was noted that our share reflected an increase of \$109,000, or a 4.31% raise, with the total school operating budget having a 2.79% increase, However part of our increase was state generated. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Southern Berkshire Regional School Capital** [3000.00] (\$85,824) now requesting {\$83,703}, This budget incorporates minimal money for the smaller schools, such as \$5,000 in case some unforeseen expenses arise. Mr. Yohalem stated that he understood that New Marlborough Central School would have some painting done and some modifications to the kitchen. Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:10PM with no meeting scheduled Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mielke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding

Secretary.