

Finance Committee Minutes

June 30th 2014

The joint meeting of the Select board and the Finance Committee was called to order at 6:210PM. Present were Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. John Pshenishny, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Nathanael Yohalem, Ms. Tara White, Mr. David Hastings Superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, Mr. Bruce Turner Treasurer and Mr. Vito Valentini the chairman of the School committee's finance committee.

Mr. Hastings had requested this meeting to share some of the information about the proposed capital expenditures. The second floor of the Mt Everett High School is unbearably hot during the months of May and June. Different strategies have been explored to remedy this situation. Mr. Turner stated that the temperature in the rooms can reach over 90 degrees making it difficult for the students to attend to their studies. Air conditioning is an obvious solution to this problem. Mr. Turner in cooperation with the engineering partners settled on a cost effective method whereby each room could be serviced with a separate mounted roof air-conditioning unit. The estimated cost would be about \$150,000. The cost of this project is estimated to be paid with a loan being placed on the Fy15 budget which would be serviced over the next 5-7 years.

The second and perhaps more serious problem concerns the boilers. The school is serviced by three boilers. The boilers are 30 years old. One boiler has deteriorated to such an extent that it is not operable, and the school has received \$68,000 from the insurance company to repair it! However it does not seem wise to repair a 30 year old boiler. The purchase of a new boiler is estimated to be about \$150,000. It appears to be wiser to install three new boilers. Added to this the school needs a new roof! At this point the school approached the State Building Authority for help in the payment of such a project. The school and the SBA are now in the process of working out the details [which appear very complex] hoping that the state will grant approximate 50% of the cost of the boilers plus the cost of the roof. This total might be about \$600,000. However, even if the state does cover 50% of the cost the remainder must be covered by the towns. The school would consider putting the cost of the air conditioning and the boiler-roof remainder in a bond to be paid off over a period of years. In order to effective an agreement with the SBA the school had to place some "up Front Money" and used the \$68,000 that they had received from the insurance company. It is hoped that the state will approve their request! The school must produce feasibilities, design and engineering drawings to meet the demands of the state, and all within a specific time limit! The state will decide what help they will give to the school in November, and at that time the towns will be asked for support to float a bond to pay off the remainder of the cost. When the boilers are replaced an estimate of \$20,000 is expected to take place because of the newer technology etc. At the end of the presentation both Mr. Hastings and Mr. Turner left.

The joint meeting continued with the purpose of transferring funds between accounts.

Prudence Spaulding
July 4th 2014

The amount of \$29,040.71 was transferred from Group Insurance [90917.00] to Tax Title Treasurer [10149.00], and the amount of \$61,366.46 from Roads and Bridges [20422.05] to Winter Roads [20423.02] with Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Ira Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously. The Selectmen voted to make these changes too.

The Finance Committee then separated from the select board, the minutes for June 16th 2014 were circulated, and accepted as read, Mr. Carson 1st, and Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

A request was made to transfer from the Reserve Fund to the Worker's Compensation Account [90912.00] with the present balance being \$1,562 the amount of \$4,277. The reason given was the premiums were submitted late by the company. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

A request was made to transfer from the Reserve Fund to the Insurance Expense Account [90914.11] with the present balance of \$990 the amount of \$7,500. The reason given was again the submission of late new premium rates. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

A request was made to transfer from the Reserve Fund to the Cultural Council [50640.00] with the present balance of -\$1.12 the amount of \$1.12. The reason given there was a miscalculation. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

A request was made to transfer from the Reserve Fund to the Police Expense Account [60210.99] with a present balance of \$275.17 the sum of \$3,476. The reason given was this allowed the Police Department to purchase Tasers at a reduced cost. Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

The election of Mr. Carson to serve as vice chairman of the committee with Mr. Imberman 1st, and Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed with Mr. Carson recusing.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary

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July 4th 2014