

# Finance Committee Minutes

## January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Joseph Kellogg, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem.

Brief notes on the public informational meeting that was held at SBRSD on January 21<sup>st</sup> were circulated. The minutes for the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were circulated with Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Pshenishny 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The following budgets were reviewed;-

**Cemetery Expenses** [20491.02] (\$2,700) level funded {\$2,700} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Pshenishny 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Officers' Salaries** [20491.00] (\$400) level funded {\$400} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Health Agent Revolving Account** [5512.00] (\$17,000) level funded {\$17,000} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Library Expenses** [50610.01] (\$40,651) now requesting {\$43,700} the committee was reminded that this budget has to be raised a certain amount each year in order to qualify for the state aid. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Library Trustees** [50610.03] (\$320) level funded {\$320} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Cultural Council** [50640.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Umpachene Falls Park** [50650] (\$4,000) level funded {\$4,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Village Green Maintenance** [50640.50] (\$3,100) now requesting {\$4,480}. This account had been put on hold because of the increase. Mr. Kellogg reported that he had discussed the budget with Mrs. Louise Yohalem, the president of the New Marlborough Village Association who reflected that the increase was in payment for the tree work that had taken place last year

and had, at that time been approved by the selectmen. Further tree work will be referred to the tree warden. Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Police Department Expenses** [60210.99] (\$21,500) now requesting {\$22,700} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously

**Constable Expense** [60211.00] (\$95) level funded {\$95} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Police Office Rental** [60210.67] (\$12,000) now requesting {\$6,000} this reflects that the police vehicle is housed in the firehouse, but no office space is utilized. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Building Inspectors Expenses** [60241.02] (\$2,617.)Level funded {\$2,617} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Building Inspector Software** [60241.15] (\$7,400) now requesting {\$2,700} the decrease in the budget reflects that this amount is a maintenance amount rather than the purchase price reflected in the last year's request. Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Emergency Management Expenses** [60291.00] (\$1825) now requesting {\$2,250} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> pass3d unanimously.

**District Department Veteran's Services** [6025.00] (\$5,813) now requesting {\$6,123} this is an assessment from the District Department of Veterans' Services, Mr., Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Visiting Nurse** [70522] (\$2,447) level funded {\$2,447} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Mental Health** {70523} (\$200) level funded {\$200} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Council on Aging Expenses** [70541.01] (\$200) now requesting {\$300} Mr. Carson 1s, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing

**Council on Aging Transportation** [70541.00] (\$5,497) level funded {\$5,497} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

**Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program** [70560.01] (\$1.00) level funded {\$100} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Carson 2<sup>nd</sup> passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

**Board of Health Expenses** [70510.01] (\$2,500) level funded {\$2,500} Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Mr. Kellogg then reported on the selectmen's decision regarding the amount for raises. It was decided that the regular employees (but not elected officials) will receive a 2% increase across the board, with the exception of the highway department. This raise will cover the cost of living increase which is reputed to be 1.7%. However, the health benefit package is expected to rise and this unfortunately may eradicate the salary raise. But having health insurance is an important benefit gained by working for the Town of New Marlborough, and Mr. Kellogg feels that the employees appreciate this. The total cost to the town for these raises will be \$13,790.

There was some discussion about the audit done in 2013. The town is now in the process of having an exit audit done covering the treasurer's and tax collector's department since the two people who held these positions left this fall.

Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem took a little time discussing the school bond and what it involves. He stated that he and the other two selectmen feel that the school bond needed to be accepted, that the work needed to be done and the grant contribution was an important reason to do the work now and have the towns' approve the bond. There was some discussion about the effect on the increase in the real estate bills, and whether a 10 year bond or a 20year bond would be best. The school budget is due to be given to the town on March 12<sup>th</sup> and the special town meeting and voting will be held before March 18<sup>th</sup>. The school has been asked to level fund their budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36PM, Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding Secretary.