

Finance Committee Minutes

January 28th 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:50PM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. David Herrick, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding and Ms. Mari Enoch. Guests present were Mr. Thomas Stalker, Mr. Robert Miller and Mrs. Jennifer Miller, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem with Ms. Tara White arriving when most of the budgets being reviewed were passed.

Minutes were circulated and accepted as read, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd unanimously accepted. The Committee then began to review budgets:-

Selectmen Salaries [10122.00] (\$8,550) level funded {\$8,550}, these salaries are not true salaries, but rather stipends. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Counsel [10124.00] (\$10,000) level funded {\$10,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Grant Writers Expense [\$750.00] now requesting {\$500.00} Mr. Herrick made a motion to deny this budget with Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Assessor's General Expenses [10141.01] (\$2,900.00) level funded {\$2,900.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Property Cards On-Line [10141.35] (\$2,100.00) now requesting {\$1,500.00} this budgets covers the on line information about the real estate properties. This year's costs are for maintenance of the computer program. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Computer Contingency [10141.44] (\$4,804.00) level funded {\$4,804.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Tax Map update [10141.55] (\$2,900.00) level funded {\$2,900.00} contract to keep the maps up to date, Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Consultant [10141.77] (\$5,000.00) level funded {\$5,000.00} this fund covers lawyer's fees should land owners take legal action against the town because they do not agree with the land assessment. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Revaluation [10142.00] (\$16,000.00) level funded {\$16,000.00} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Cyclical Re-Inspection [10142.05] (\$10,000.00) level funded {\$10,000.00} this is to cover the costs of the firm to physically inspect and measure each piece of property in the town. This is mandated by the state to take place every ten years; this is our second year of the three year cycle. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Tax Collector Computer Services [10146.02] (\$6,500.00) level funded {\$6,500.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector's Expenses [101147.99] (\$ 5,500.00) now requesting {\$5,700.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Title (Collector) (\$3,000.00) now requesting {\$2,000.00} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Officer's Bonds [10193.00] (\$1,250.00) level funded {\$1,250.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector's Expenses [60241.01] (\$2,617.00) level funded {\$2,617.00} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector's Software [60241.15] (\$2,700.00) level funded {\$2,700.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Regional Planning Commission [6012.00] (\$1,090.00) now requesting {\$1117.00} These people work with the Planning Board and this is an assessment. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Mental Health [70523.00] (\$200.00) level funded {\$200.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Interest [80752.00] (\$5,000.00) now requesting {\$2,000.00} Mrs. Enoch stated that she considered this drop in the request was in order since the town had not used nearly the last year's allotment. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Banking Services [80753.00] (\$200.00) level funded {\$200.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Veterans Benefits Chapter 115 Trust [90918.00] (\$8,000.00) level funded {\$8,000.00} this budget covers specific benefits to veterans living within the town, it is state mandated,

however the state recompenses the town 75% of the amount used. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Fire Truck Loan [80750.23] this is for the new fire truck and the first payment is due in August 2016. {\$77,000.00} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mr. Herrick recusing.

At the beginning of the meeting the Committee was presented with the **Conservation Commission Expense Budget** [10123.00] this budget had requested \$2,000 last year and is now requesting \$6,000. Ms. Enoch explained the increase in this budget. Mr. Ned Wilson has been chairing this committee which should have 7 members but is now down to 3 members. There is a lot of complex learning that is required and Mr. Wilson has expressed his desire to retire from this committee to pursue other more personally important activities, since this committee takes up a great deal of his time. The selectmen have considered paying him a \$4,000 a year stipend to continue doing the work of the Conservation commission of which he is so well qualified. Discussion centered about whether the selectmen should explore the possibilities of sharing a Conservation Commission director with neighboring towns. Because of the increase in this budget it was put on hold. The Committee suggested that the needs for more qualified persons should be advertised in the Record and in the Five Village News.

Mr. Herrick stated that he has tried to reach Mr. Imberman twice but with no success. Mr. Carson stated that he will ask his son to contact Mr. Imberman and ask for his resignation, since the bulk of the Finance committee work takes place in the winter months when Mr. Imberman plans to be living in Florida. When this resignation become final, Mr. Robert Miller has offered to take his place until Town Meeting time when a vote can be held.

Mrs. Enoch suggested that next week's agenda will include Mrs. Krejci from the First Responders [New Marlborough Rescue 60291.77] and Mr. Chuck Loring representing the Highway Department and the Fire Company.

The next Finance Committee will be held on Thursday February 4th at 6:30PM.

A vote was held to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM, Mr. Herrick 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding
January 30th 2016