

Finance Committee Minutes

May 26th 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Robert Miller, Mr. Thomas Stalker, Mr. Mark Carson, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding and Mrs. Marilyn Fracasso. Guests included Ms. Tara White, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, and Mrs. Marsha Pshenishny. The Minutes for May 2nd were accepted as read, Mr. Stalker 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously. The Committee welcomed Mrs. Fracasso.

Since this was the first meeting since the election of member's organization took place. Mr. Pshenishny nominated Mr. Carson to be the chairman of the committee with Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mr. Carson recusing. Mr. Carson nominated Mrs. Spaulding to serve as secretary with Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

The members then reviewed an e-mail sent from Mrs. Mari Enoch in which she suggested that the Finance Committee might wish to edit the Reserve Fund request form to reflect that the accountant had verified the amount balance of the account in need of funds and that the selectmen had reviewed the request for the funds to be transfer to the said account. Some discussion took place and the present form was edited to reflect these two factors.

The Committee then turned its attention to the request for funds from the Reserve Fund by the Tree Warden. This request lacked the Account Number, the present balance in the account and a detailed description for which the funds were needed. The Tree Work Account number is 60291.01 and Ms. White stated that the balance on that account was \$145.00. The reason given for the request of \$10,000 was that there were trees by the New Marlborough School and on Rhoades and Bailey Road that were considered by the Tree Warden to be "unsafe". While the form was not correctly made out and that Tree Warden had discussed the additional

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work with Mrs. Enoch, he had not presented this situation to the selectmen (although he had had three weeks to do so), the committee discussed that if, in fact, these trees were essentially unsafe they should be taken down. The accurate amount to effect this was not furnished, however should there be money not used on these two sites it would become "free cash" for the coming year. Mr. Miller made a motion to grant this request, with Mr. Carson 2nd, a vote was taken and the motion passed 4/6.

Mrs. Enoch's e-mail continued with the list of proposed budget reductions that had been agreed to by the department heads and the amounts agreed upon. The total so far was \$37,500. In order to achieve the budget of the FYI 2017 to bring it under the 2 ½ levy limit, another \$17,500 would be needed and even then this would not allow for any unexpected amount needed during the upcoming year. Mr. Yohalem then joined the group. He reported that the selectmen had gone over the figures of each account assessing the amount which had been used so far, with the understanding that it was now the end of May and there was only one more month before the new fiscal year would begin. The following accounts had a sizeable percentage of their allotted funds remaining, Highway Diesel, Highway Propane, Fire Prevention, Animal Inspector's Expense, and Council on Aging Transportation. He added another account that was not on Ms. Enoch's email and that was the Rescue Squad.

He discussed with Mrs. Spaulding who serves as the Animal Inspector if she could reduce her budget for 2017, she agreed to do so for the amount of \$600, with the understanding that if she ran out of funds she would have to ask for funds from the Reserve Fund during the year. Mrs. Spaulding also serves as the Director of Senior Services and agreed under the same stipulation to reduce the Council of Aging Transportation budget for \$2,000 hoping that she would not have to request funds from the Reserve Fund during the latter part of the 2017 year. When it came to the Highway Diesel and Propane it was noted that this winter had been an extraordinarily easy one on such substances, however the Committee members had

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the end of the 2015 fiscal year figures and even with that winter there had been funds left in those budgets. Mr. Miller added that some further winterizing of the town garage would result in some savings on the fuel used to heat the garage. Mr. Yohalem stated that he intended to discuss these accounts with Mr. Chuck Loring who serves both as the Highway Superintendent as well as the Fire Chief. Mr. Yohalem stated that he would meet with the chairman of the Rescue Squad to see if he would be able to reduce their 2017 budget in an effort to bright^(x) the town budget under 2 ½ .

The Finance Committee needs to meet again to learn whether the efforts to lower the FYI2017 budget had been achieved and then review the new budget before presenting it to the town voters in a special town meeting. Mr. Yohalem stated that he thought that this could be ready for Thursday June 9th (at 6:00PM) when it was decided that the next Finance Committee meeting would be scheduled.

Mr. Stalker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously at 7:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

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