

# Finance Committee Minutes

## February 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

The minutes were distributed at 7:00PM; the meeting was then called to order with Mr. David Herrick presiding, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Ms. Pat Mielke, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding present. Mr. Michael Skorput was a guest, and Mrs. Barbara Marchione joined the group at 7:45PM to provide information about the Emergency Management budget.

The minutes for February 9<sup>th</sup> were approved as read, with Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The committee began to review the budgets in hand.

**Street Listing** [10163.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mielke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Election Expense** [10162.00] (\$2,000) now requesting {\$2,130}, the raise reflects the fact that there will be three elections this year. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Herrick 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Town Clerk Expense** [10161.01] (\$2,200) level funded {\$2,200} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mielke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Town Records Preservation** [10161.02] (\$500) now requesting {\$26,122}, there was some discussion about this budget since the cost of the preservations seemed so great. There are nineteen items that require preservation. These records extend back to the colonial times and include colonial proprietors' records, surveys of highways in 1817, births and deaths, and military records along with many other books of valuable records. They have not been preserved and are in dire need of preservation. Once these are done the town will also receive a microfilm with CD of each book. These will be available to those who need to do research. Mr. Skorput stated that the records are disintegrating rapidly. While the preservation is obviously needed Mr. Skorput stated that he thought that this item should be a Warrant item allowing the voters to understand the situation prior to approving or disapproving this sum. Mr. Herrick 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

**Town Collector's Certification Salary** [10147.05] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} this certification salary must be granted under the General Laws of Massachusetts Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Household Hazardous Waste** [70439.00] (\$1,100) now requesting {\$1,350}, Mr. Skorput stated that more people were using the Hazardous Waste facility and this explains the increase. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mielke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Berkshire Region Group Purchasing** [70524.00] (\$600) level funded {\$600} Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Memorial Day** [50692.00] (\$700) now requesting {\$900} Mr. Skorput stated that the price of flags had increased and there were more veterans' graves requiring these flags. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Mielke 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Moderators Salary** [10114.00] (\$145) level funded {\$145} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Insurance Expense** [90914.11] (\$58,000) now requesting {\$55,000} Mr. Yohalem asked if the town carried an umbrella policy (which it does) and if the insurance was put out to bid (which it is every three years!). It was noted that the Police, Fire and EMTs were covered under a separate policy. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Town Counsel** [10124.00] (\$8,000) now requesting {\$8,500} this sum covers the cost of the town's lawyer for the entire year,( unless there is an unexpected and time consuming incident requiring many extra hours).

**Stabilization Fund** [90100.00] (\$10,000) now requesting {\$40,000}, this fund is controlled by the voters at a Town Meeting and requires a 2/3 vote to release money from the fund. It is used for major and unexpected emergencies, and our stabilization fund has now a balance of only about \$125,000. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Workman's Compensation Insurance** [90912.00] (\$12,000) now requesting {\$11,500}, Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Emergency Management Expenses** [60291.01] (\$1,000) now requesting {\$3,150}, this budget reflects the necessary increased activity of the Emergency Management team. It includes \$1,500 for a return 911 telephone service that could be activated in an emergency situation by someone in the Town Hall, the Police, Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent and the Director of Emergency management. It also includes \$500 for the LEPC (Local emergency Planning Commission) which meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Fairview Hospital. The tasks of the Emergency Management Director increased radically during the storm Irene and Mrs. Marchione stated that she is making every effort to obtain grants and develop a program so that the town will be better prepared than it was when Irene came to call! Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The Following budgets were placed on HOLD because they were salary items, **Tax Collectors Salary** [10147.02], **Emergency Management Salary** [60291.00] and **Town Clerk's Salary** [10161.00].

It was noted that the SBRSD had had a budget meeting on this night and that the Final Budget meeting will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Herrick shared some of the figures. The Town warrant will be closed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

The next meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.