

Finance Committee Minutes

March 6th 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Present were Mr. Edgar Zukauskas presiding, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Mark Carson, Ms. Pat Mielke, Mr. Burt Imberman and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Guests were Ms. Tara White, Mrs. Michele Shalaby and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem. The minutes for February were circulated and accepted as read, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Mrs. Spaulding suggested that the committee review with the hope of accepting Mr. Carmody's (building Inspector) Expense budget[60241.02] which focuses upon the purchasing and using a new computer program, which is designed to facilitate the obtaining of building permits. This generated some discussion. Mr. Imberman asked about how many building permits were written during a year, and suggested that someone in the town hall be present to help local citizens apply for a building permit. Also there was some question about the availability of the program to those people who did not have DSL or WIFI! There is an informational meeting open to people from the various towns to learn more about the proposed program, and it is being held at the Town Hall in Lenox on Tuesday at 9:00 (March the 11th). Mr. Carson offered to attend and perhaps bring back some answers to these questions! The budget was again put on HOLD!

Mr. Yohalem circulated a brief memo concerning information about the possible interest costs on between three and five thousand dollars for five years (between 1.95% and 2.00%). The committee then began to review the following budgets:-

Assessor's Computer Contingency [10141.44] (\$4,235) now asking {\$4,340.70} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Assessor's Revaluation [[10142.00] (\$15,000) now requesting {\$16,000} Mr. Imberman 1st, Mrs. Mielke 2nd, however this budget was put on HOLD, as the committee had already passed the budget request for \$15,000.

Assessor's Cyclical Re-Inspection {new account no number} The information included with this request was that this was a "new Account" and was state mandated that 1/3 of all properties be remeasured and listed! The committee placed this request on HOLD and will ask Mrs. Pshenishny to appear at the next meeting to further explain this request.

Board of Health Clerical [70510.02] (\$5,000) level funded {\$5,000} this pays for the clerical work done by Mr. Scott MacFarlane and Mrs. Pia Bellinger. Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Health Salaries [70510.00] (\$1,250) level funded {\$1,250} these are basically "stipends". Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Health Expenses [70510.01] ((\$1,500) now requesting {\$2,500} additional information attached to this budget, explained that the raise in this budget was for the hiring of a Berkshire Public Health Alliance inspector. Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Health Agent Revolving [5512.00] (\$17,000) now requesting {\$17,000} Mr. Imberman 1st, and Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Memorial Day [50692.00] (\$900) level funded {\$900} Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd passed unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses [10176.00] (\$600) level funded {\$600} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Expenses [10123.00] (\$2,000) level funded {\$2,000} Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Zukauskas 3rd passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Expenses [10133.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Medicare [90917.00] (\$10700) now requesting {\$11,425} this amount is based on payroll estimate, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously

Berkshire County Retirement [90911.00] (\$77,978) now requesting {\$100,953} this is an assessed amount to cover the employees of the town, all the towns in Berkshire county pay this it is a payroll assessment! Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Interest Expense [80752.00] (\$5,000) level funded {\$5,000} this amount is projected to cover short term loans to cover expenses. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Banking Services [80753/00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Household Hazardous Waste [704439.00] (\$1,100) now requesting {\$1,279} this is an assessed amount. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Village Association [50650.50] (\$3,500) now requesting {{3,108} this amount is asked to help maintain the village green, a letter supporting this request was attached. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Zukauskas voting against the motion.

911 Coordinator Expense [60295.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Mr. Imberman 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Wired West [10192.80] (00) now requesting {\$1,000}. This request elicited a great deal of discussion. Ms. Shalaby had been to one of the Wired West Meetings, and explained that there were 42 towns that were taking part in this activity. The goal is for the people of the towns to be able to get service easily. The plan is still in the beginning stage, but so far it is hoped that a bond of 1 million dollars could be obtained, and that each of the 42 towns would eventually get the service. A 2/3 vote is needed at a town meeting to guarantee that the town will support of the venture. A list of households that are interested in obtaining the service is necessary and should the income from the service not be adequate to pay off the loan each household would probably have to pay \$90 per year for twenty years! Mrs. Shalaby also stated that New Marlborough would probably not be "wired" from 2-5 years. Now the only buildings in the town that get a similar service are the municipal buildings! The town does not even have enough "cell" towers to serve the different areas! Because the material appeared to be so sketchy the budget was put on HOLD.

A brief discussion centered about the proposed raises for the town employees. Each department supervisor is supposed to have evaluated the staff and the raises are supposed to be on a merit basis.

Mr. Yohalem reminded the staff that the school budget will be formally adopted on Tuesday March 11th. He requested that Mrs. Spaulding provide Mr. Skorput with a list of the budgets that have not been presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday March 13th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding/ Secretary