

Finance Committee Minutes

January 15th 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny ,Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding and Mr. Joe Kellogg. The minutes for January 8th were circulated and accepted a read, Mr. Carson 1st,Mr Yohalem 2nd unanimously accepted.

Mr. Kellogg reported that our request for the presence of the treasurer had been discussed by the selectmen. At the last meeting Mr. Herrick, Chairman instructed Mrs. Spaulding to inform the treasurer that her presence at the meetings was required. Mr. Kellogg stated that the selectmen had discussed this and decided that the treasurer's presence should be required only when some specific item needed to be discussed. Mr. Kellogg asked why there were six members on the Committee and when there was a tie vote how did the Committee handle this? Mrs. Spaulding reported that when the Committee had gone from members appointed by the selectmen to members elected it was arranged that two members would be elected each year and would serve on the Committee for three years. Mr. Kellogg reported that most Finance Committees consisted of five members thus there would be no tie votes! A by-law can be passed to change the number of members that serve on the Committee and could be presented at the yearly town meeting, or the Committee could remain with six members using a selectman to take care of a tie vote should it occur. This situation will be discussed further in the future.

Mr. Herrick presented the members with a copy of a letter that the selectmen had sent to the School Committee (with copies to the other towns) informing them that the Town of New Marlborough was requesting that they make their budget to the town level funded (\$2,505,996) and that should include operating, capital and debt expenditures. Mr. Herrick signed this letter as Chairman of the Finance Committee since it reflected the views of our committee as discussed at the last meeting.

He also reported that the School Committee had voted to have the bond issue voted on by all towns on the same day and that the bond would then be able to be passed by a simple majority. The selectmen did not feel that this was fair, although it was legal. A School Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday January 20th at 6:30PM when the Committee may rescind this decision and the bond issue will revert to being voted on by individual towns and would need each town to vote to accept the bond by a 2/3rds vote. The members of the Finance Committee will attend that meeting.

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The Committee then proceeded to review the budgets submitted for the FY 2016 budget.

Website [10116.00] (\$2,425) Level funded {\$2,425} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Expenses [10123.00] (\$2,000) level funded {\$2,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Assessor's General Expense [10141.01] (\$2,000) level funded {\$2,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing..

Assessor's Computer Contingency [10141.44] (\$4,325) now requesting {\$4,804} the contract with Kapinos has increased. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Consultant [10141.77] (\$ 5,000) level funded {\$5,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshneishny recusing.

Assessor's Tax Map Update [10141.55] (\$2,000) level funded {\$2,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing

Assessor's Revaluation [10142.00] (\$16,000) level funded {\$16,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Assessor's Cyclical Re-Inspection [10142.05] (\$10,000) level funded {\$10,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed with Mr. Pshenishny recusing.

Tax Title (Collector) [10148.00] (\$3,000) level funded {\$3,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously

Tax Collector Computer Services [10146.02] (\$6,500) level funded {\$6,500} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Expenses [10147.99] (\$5,500) level funded {\$5,500} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Appeals [10176.000] (\$600) level funded {\$600} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Planning Board [10175.00] (\$1,300) level funded {\$1,300} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Planning Board Expenses [10175.01] (\$873) level funded {\$873} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

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Planning Board Grant [10175.02] (\$0) no funds requested, no vote needed.

Town Clerk Expenses [10161.91] (\$ 2,200) level funded {\$2,200} Mrs. Spaulding 1st , Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Election Expenses [10162.00] (\$2,225) level funded {\$2,225} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Records Preservation [10161.02] (\$5,000) level funded {\$5,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1s, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Street Listings [10163.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

The following budgets were put on **HOLD** :-

Village Green Maintenance [50650.50] (\$3,100) now requesting {\$4,480}. The members of the Committee looking over this budget noted that there was an increase of 47% from last year's request. After much discussion, Mr. Kellogg stated that he would contact Mrs. Yohalem and explore this increase with her. He would report his findings back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Town Accounting Offices Expenses [10135.03] (\$ 4105) now requesting {\$4305.54} this reflects an increase in the services provided by "Softlight". The Town Accountant will be asked to come in and explain this increase.

Assessor's Account {No number, new service account requesting {\$2.100}. This new account would make records available online. Recommended by the DOR \$600 would be a onetime expense to set the program up and then there would be a yearly cost of \$1,500 to maintain it. Mr. Kellogg stated that the program is used in many towns and allows individual citizens access to the information on their properties, salesmen of real estate access to properties that they wish to list or sell, and building inspectors and building contractors information that they need to grant permits on buildings and land. It would save the Assessor's clerk a great deal of time. The purchase of this program was suggested by Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem one of the selectmen and he will be invited in to discuss its purchase.

A motion to adjourn at 8:25PM was made by Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd and passed unanimously. The next meeting will be on Thursday January 22nd 2015 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, secretary.

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