

Finance Committee Minutes

March 11th 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:05AM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Joseph Kellogg, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, with guests Mrs. Michele Shalaby, Ms. Tara White and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem.

Minutes were distributed for February 19th accepted as read, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously. The committee immediately began reviewing budgets.

School Committee Expense [3000.00] (\$1,500) level funded {\$1,500} this is a type of stipend for our two school committee members. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Notification System [60291.00] (\$3313) now requesting {\$2,750} this covers the cost of Reverse 911. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Workman's Compensation Insurance [90912.00] (\$18,550) now requesting {\$23,000} Mr. Kellogg stated that in the past Mr. Skorput had used some of the credits available through MIA(there are none left) and had had to come to the Finance Committee in the past and request a transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund. Mr. Kellogg feels that the amount requesting is appropriate. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Insurance Expense [90914.11] (\$66,000) now requesting {\$78,000} this budget had also been underfunded and this now includes coverage on all the towns' property and vehicles (highway, police and fire department).Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Accountant Officer's Expenses [10135.03] (\$4,105) now requesting {\$4,306} the increase in this budget reflects the increase cost of the software. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Grant Writer's Expenses [10137.01] (\$500) level funded at {\$500} Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Salary [10147.01] (\$17,045) now requesting {\$17,386} although the town is in the process of hiring a new treasurer the selectmen will only use this total amount if the candidate is very well qualified for the position. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd passed unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer's Salary [10147.25] (\$ 5,200) now requesting {\$5,304} should the town require an assistant to cover for the Treasurer the assistant will be paid by the hour out of this account. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Officer's Expenses [10192.07] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Hall Account [10192.70](\$38,000) now requesting {\$39,000} the increase in this request is designed to cover the cost of the increase in electricity. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Officer's Bonds [10193.00] (\$1,250) level funded {\$1,250} The town Cler, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, and the Tax Collector need to be bonded. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd passed unanimously.

Printing [10195.00] (\$2,700) level funded {\$2,700} this covers the cost of the printing of the Annual Town Report. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman, 2nd passed unanimously.

Cemetery Salaries [20491.01] (\$34,689) now requesting {\$35,383} this covers the costs of cutting and trimming the lawns in eleven cemeteries. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

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

Constable's Salary [60211.00] (\$475) level funded {\$475} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

New Marlborough Rescue Salary Account [60291.78] (\$6,300)level funded {\$6,300} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officer [60293.00] (\$2,100) level funded {\$2,100} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Animal Expense [60293.77] (\$1,660) Level funded {\$1,660} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Animal Control Officer's Expenses [60293.78] (\$3,411) level funded {\$3,411} Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Tree Warden's Salary [60294.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Tree Work [60294.01] (\$15,000) level funded [\$15,000] this budget had been raised last year, and the Committee was hopeful that with the weather this winter this budget would be adequate. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

911 Coordinator Expenses [60295.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Berkshire County Communications [60299.00] (\$9,137) now requesting {\$9,412} this covers the cost of the dispatcher, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Household Hazardous Waste [70439.00] (\$1,279) now requesting {\$1,336} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Health Salaries [70510.00] (\$1,150) level funded {\$1,150} this covers three stipends for the members of the Board of Health Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Healthy Clerical [70510.02] (\$5,000) level funded {\$5,000} again this covers two people to be paid by the hour. Mrs. Spaulding 1st Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Transfer Station Salaries [70819.00] (\$17,811) with the 2% raise now requesting {\$18,168} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Transfer Station Expenses [70519.03] (\$61,000) now requesting {\$63,000} there was some discussion about this request. The town has purchased and installed a new compactor which is supposed to result in the decrease in cost of the process, however with the increase in electricity and the fact that this compactor is new it deemed wise to increase this budget. However, during next year's deliberations the fact that the compactor is new and is supposed to save the town money next year's request should be scrutinized,. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Community Health Program [70521.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Veteran's Benefit Ch 115 Trust [90918.00] (\$6,000) now requesting {\$8,000} this fund provides for veterans in need and about 75% of it is reimbursable, (after about 3 years from the state and the amount of reimbursement is seen on the "Cherry sheet"). There is a veteran in need in the town at this time Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Regional Planning Commission [6012.00] (\$1,063) now requesting {\$1,090} this is an assessment based upon the per capita assessment of \$0.0072 multiplied by the most recent (2010) national census Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Grant Writer's Salary {10137.00} (\$5,000) level funded {5,000} it was decided not to fund this account Mr. Herrick 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

At that time Mr. Kellogg stated that the voters would probably wish to know if the committee supported the school bond issue requesting the coverage of the cost of replacing the roof and the boilers in Mount Everett School. Ms. White stated that Mr. Turner, the business manager, of SBRSD stated that the bond would be issued for 20 years with the increase of interest but the lowering of the cost to the individual home owner. She also added that Sheffield vote placing it outside 2 ½ was taking place next Monday night and should it fail, or should New Marlborough vote to put it outside 2 ½ fail the project would not pass as it needs to pass in all of the towns. The school has stated that the state will hold its 38.9% support for a period of time. And should the towns not support it the school will probably request another vote! However it was noted that the interest rate had not been fixed and the actual cost of the project is still not definite. Mr. Carson made a motion not to support this request, He stated that the school had chosen to use the money allotted to fix the boiler to pay for an engineer to assess the need for three new boilers instead, He stated that he understood that the school had not explored other heating offers, and the proposed costs were not finalized. Mrs. Spaulding stated that although she agreed with Mr. Carson's concerns she felt that with the continuing declining enrollment there might come a time in the future when this building would not be utilized and would have to be sold and it should be maintained in good repair. A motion was made to reject the support of the school bond issue Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd and this motion to reject the support was passed by 3/2.

Mr. Kellogg then stated that there were a few budgets left, namely the School Budget, the Police Salaries budget, and the amount to be put in the Stabilization Fund. A joint meeting with the selectmen was arranged to take place on Thursday March 19th at 7:00PM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding Secretary