

Finance Committee Minutes

February 15th 2018

The meeting begun when the minutes of February 8th were circulated at 3:58PM. Present were Mr. Carson, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Pshenishny, Mrs. Fracasso, and Mrs. Spaulding. Guests were Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, Ms. Tara White, and Ms. Michele Shalaby.

The minutes were accepted with the correction which Mrs. Walker read stating "the minutes for February 1st, were accepted with Mrs. Walker's correction". Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed with Mr. Carson recusing.

The budget review began:-

Reserve Fund [95781.00] (\$50,000), the committee decided that until the total budget was available they would level fund this account. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Agricultural Commission [new account no number available], requesting {\$200} this covers the cost of three market signs and some printing. Mrs. Walker questioned how this account had been established. The Commission had been established under the Department of Agriculture and was made up of some the farmers of New Marlborough. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Walker abstaining.

Selectmen Stipends [10122.00] (\$8,550) Level funded {\$8,550} Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Selectmen's Expenses [10122.01] (\$2,800) now requesting {\$3,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Contingency Expenses [10122.02] (\$3,000) now requesting {\$5,000} additional funds were to cover the costs of permanent easements on a ridge project on Unpachene Falls Road and perhaps unexpected broadband efforts. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Accounting Officer's Expenses [10135.03] (\$4515) level funded {\$4,515}; the backup material was included from Accela provider. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Assessor's Computer Contingency [10141.44] (\$ 4520) now requesting {\$4628} this relates to motor vehicle software Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Prudence Spaulding
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Assessor's Tax Map Update [10141.55] this account had been passed on February 8th for \$3,100, however a contractual change reduced the figure to {\$2,500}. A motion was made to rescind the amount voted on February 8th of \$3, 100, Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously. A motion was made to vote {\$2,500} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

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

Board of Appeals [10176.00] (\$300) level funded {\$300} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Officer's Expenses [10192.07] (\$200) now requesting {\$0}, any unbudgeted need would be covered by Selectmen's Contingency. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Officers' Bonds [10193.00] (\$1,200) now requesting {\$800}, this amount is lowered because some town employees have a three year bond which will not come due until 2019. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Printing [10195.00] (\$2,000) now requesting {\$1,800} Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Street Lights [20424.02] (\$ 4,848) level funded {\$4,848} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

School Committee Stipends [30000.00] (\$1,500) now requesting {\$1,650} this account originally was designed to cover mileage for the school committee members, it is now subject to OBRA and Medicare withholdings. The increase will cover these costs. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Village Green Maintenance [50650.50] (\$2,612) now requesting {\$3,093} breakdown of acreage was included. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Memorial Day [50692.00] (\$700) level funded {\$700} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Cultural Council [50640.04] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Constable Expenses [60211.01] (\$95) level funded {\$95} Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Tree Warden's Stipend [60294.00] (\$1,000) now requesting {\$1,500} no explanation for the increase in this stipend. This is an elected position, no backup for the increase was offered. Put on HOLD.

Tree Work [60294.01] (\$15,000) now requesting {\$26,000}. Mr. Carson made a motion to level fund this account {\$15,000}, Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Berkshire County Communications [60299.00] (\$9,984) now requesting {10,283.43} this is a contractual account. Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Workman's Compensation Insurance [90912.00] (\$ 18,655) now requesting {\$16,500} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Group health Insurance [90914.70] (\$196,221) level funded {\$196,221} the group noted that this amount had been raised from the FY17 to the Fy18 budget. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

During the School Committee Stipend discussion, Mrs. Walker stated that she would like to have a clear definition for "stipend". Mrs. Spaulding stated that the Webster Dictionary stated that it is "a regular or fixed payment, as a salary". Mrs. Walker stated that the IRS considers them all salaries and should be treated as such. Firemen and the rescue service personnel have the stipends clarified by the state. Mrs. Fracasso, the town treasurer, stated that the deductions are based upon what you get paid, e.g. if the pay is so small there is no deduction. Some of the town's stipends are paid monthly, some yearly and so on. There is always a Medicare deduction. The stipends of the different volunteers vary in the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18PM. Mr. Carson was planning to attend the school committee meeting scheduled at 6:00. The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday February 22nd at 6:00PM and will be a joint meeting with the selectmen.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding Secretary.