

Meeting Date: January 26, 2011

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Finance Committee Members Present: Lynn Reynolds, Rob Allen, John Hanold, Michael Naughton, and Andrew Killeen

Selectmen Present: Pat Allen, Chris Boutwell (arrived 6:57 PM) and Mark Fairbrother

Others Present: Frank Abbondanzio (Town Administrator)

Minutes

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of January 19, 2011.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Board of Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of January 19, 2011.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Department Questions and Answers for the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Answers to the brief survey were provided by the following departments: Accountant, Council on Aging, Emergency Management, Libraries, Police, and WPCF.

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Mr. Hanold reported that Chief Zukowski would like to send a new police officer to the Academy in FY2011 rather than FY2012, as budgeted. This may be covered by some salary savings and a reserve fund transfer may not be needed.

State Aid Revenue Assumptions Updates for Fiscal Year 2012

- Mr. Abbondanzio gave a report of the meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Association that was held last weekend.
- In the Governor's proposed budget, unrestricted "Lottery" aid will be cut by 7%. This would result in a reduction to Montague's Unrestricted General Government Aid of \$87,646 from FY2011. Increases to other items of state aid and increases in state assessments provide for a net reduction of \$57,883 for all Cherry Sheet items.
- The proposed increase in Chapter 70 Aid is an illusion, as most increases are for communities below foundation budget. The funding is actually a bit less than 1% cut.
- Some change will be made to health care, but it is not known exactly what.
- Chapter 90 revenues will be better than received in the past -- up 29%.
- Mr. Abbondanzio spoke with Jay Gonzalez, Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance, who said state tax collections are picking up a little.

Mike Naughton gave a report about his meeting with some people from the Wendell Finance Committee about Chapter 70. His report included information about the subtleties of the calculations and Wendell's approach to it. Whether this is something our town wants to pursue further is in question.

List of Documents and Exhibits

- Email from Tom Philbin to Frank Abbondanzio
- Governor's budget Recommendation Fiscal Year 2012
- Local Aid Estimates.

Next Meetings

February 2, 2011: Mr. Abbondanzio's report on the 10% budget cut scenario

February 9, 2011

Adjourned 7:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Reynolds