

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
May 25, 2011

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**Meeting Date:** May 25, 2011

**Called to Order:** 6:02 PM

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Mike Naughton, Lynn Reynolds, and Andrew Killeen

**Selectmen Present:** Mark Fairbrother, Pat Allen and Chris Boutwell (arrived at 6:13 PM)

**Others Present:** Frank Abbondanzio (Town Administrator) and Carolyn Olsen (Town Accountant)

**Minutes**

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 13, 2011.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of May 4, 2011.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of May 4, 2011.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Reserve Fund Transfers**

Reserve fund transfers have been requested by Veterans' Benefits and Dispatch

The Veterans' Benefits department had unexpected burial benefit expenses of \$8,000 this year.

Board of Selectmen Moved:

To recommend transferring \$6,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Veterans' Benefits Budget.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$6,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Veterans' Benefits Budget.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

The Dispatch and Police departments had some staff changes when the Police Confidential Secretary retired in December. That position was combined with Dispatch oversight to create a new position in Dispatch. The Dispatch Supervisor was appointed to the new position, which required an additional full-time dispatcher to fill the day shift. It was unclear at the time what the total impact would be to Dispatch between overtime savings, potential training costs, and the new employee. The retirement in the Police Department saved \$16,000, but Dispatch now needs an additional \$17,000. Several

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people suggested that it would be more appropriate to transfer the \$17,000 from the Police budget rather than Reserve Fund, given that the Police department had a line-item surplus from the changes which offset the additional costs in Dispatch.

Board of Selectmen Moved:

To recommend transferring \$17,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Dispatch Budget.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$17,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Dispatch Budget.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Update on Technical Panel**

Mr. Naughton reported on recent activities of the Technical Panel. Tupper Brown realized that state revenues are coming in higher than expected and asked our legislators if this would allow an increase in the Fiscal Year 2012 Chapter 70 funds for school districts. The response was that it is unlikely that the Fiscal Year 2012 local aid will be adjusted. Mr. Naughton also noted that Jen Waldron, a member of the Gill-Montague Regional School District School Committee, publicly thanked the Montague town meeting members for approving a higher assessment than the town originally planned.

**Future Meetings**

Finance Committee members are to notify Ms. Olsen of any dates they are unavailable during the summer, and decide on a summer schedule at the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**List of Documents and Exhibits -**

Reserve Fund Transfer Request for Veterans' Benefits  
Reserve Fund Transfer Request for Dispatch

**Next Meetings**

June 1, 2011 - Cancelled

June 29, 2011

Adjourned 6:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Olsen