

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

March 27, 2013

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**Meeting Date:** March 27, 2013

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Michael Naughton, Lynn Reynolds, Greg Garrison and Sharon Kennaugh.

**Board of Selectmen Members:** Christopher Boutwell and Mark Fairbrother. Pat Allen joined the meeting at 6:20 PM.

**Others Present:**

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen, and Lisa Adams (prospective member)

**Minutes**

Change made to page 5, FCTS section, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in first paragraph.

Replaced: "Ms. Olsen offered a simpler method of simply determining a "typical" range of enrollment and only moving money into or out of the stabilization fund when enrollment is over or under the typical enrollment."

With: "Ms. Olsen offered what she considers to be a simpler method of just determining a "typical" range of enrollment and only moving money into or out of the stabilization fund when enrollment is over or under the typical enrollment."

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 20, 2013 as amended.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 20, 2013 as amended.

Vote: Allen - Aye Boutwell - Aye Fairbrother - Aye

**WPCF Budget**

440 WPCF	Requested
Wages & Expenses	\$1,352,904
Debt	360,992
Employee Benefits	<u>184,508</u>
Total 440	\$1,898,404

449 DPW Subsidiary	
Wages & Expenses	\$ 46,959
Capital Outlay	<u>8,000</u>
Total 449	\$ 54,959

Total WPCF \$1,953,336

Funding: \$180,000 Taxation, \$1,773,336 Sewer User Fees

Several people expressed concern that I & I was still so high after all the sewer work that's been done recently.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$1,953,336 for the Fiscal Year 2014 WPCF Budget, with \$180,000 funded from taxation and \$1,773,336 funded from Sewer User Fees.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Colle Budget** Request is \$88,088

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$88,088 for the Fiscal Year 2014 Colle Budget, to be funded from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Airport Budget** Request is \$42,000, which includes an increase in the Airport Manager's hours from 15 to 19 hours per week.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$42,000 for the Fiscal Year 2014 Airport Budget, with \$9,500 funded from taxation, \$5,650 funded from Airport Retained Earnings and \$26,850 funded from Airport User Fees.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Franklin County Technical School Assessment** Request is \$731,659

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$731,659 for the Fiscal Year 2014 Franklin County Technical School Assessment, to be funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Chris Boutwell announced the remote participation by Pat Allen due to geographical distance.**

**Gill-Montague Regional School District**

Affordable Assessment is \$7,956,781. Request is \$8,012,702.

Mr. Naughton raised the issue that the School Committee has not provided answers to our questions, and has heard that School Committee feels town has not answered their questions, and therefore is in no hurry to answer our questions. Mr. Fairbrother noted that the difference is that they want \$8 million from us, and we aren't asking them for money.

Mr. Naughton is conflicted – the use of stabilization is close to original Table B number, but is concerned that approval now sends the message that we aren't interested in encouraging more reductions in the budget. Mr. Naughton would be more comfortable if the School Committee answered our questions and if they seemed more interested in working with us.

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The Finance Committee decided to postpone this vote in case budget information from Gill-Montague Regional School District changes at tonight's School Committee meeting.

**Town Operating Budget**

The Board of Health has requested that the Health Inspector hours be increased from 14.5 to 20 hours per week. No one expressed any objections and Ms. Reynolds stated that she felt the Board of Health made a very strong case for the increase.

The Town Accountant has recommended the following decreases from the requested amounts with the approval of the department heads.

- Decrease the Public Buildings Utilities budget by \$20,000 to reflect historical use of electricity rather than a percent increase on the current year budget. The remaining budget reflects 12 months of actual use with a 5% increase and an additional increase of \$2,000.
- Decrease the Snow and Ice budget by \$13,080. This level funds the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.
- Decrease the Debt budget by \$10,000. Short term interest is budgeted at \$30,000, but with no borrowing in anticipation of bonds planned, \$20,000 is enough.

These reductions are shown in the Recommend column below.

DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY12	BUDGET FY13	REQUESTED FY14	RECOMMEND FY14
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
113	TOWN MEETING	1,266	1,707	1,720	1,720
122	SELECTMEN	126,507	132,205	142,013	142,013
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	738	820	840	840
132	RESERVE FUND	67,425	50,000	50,000	50,000
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT	68,772	69,050	71,893	71,893
141	ASSESSORS	141,046	145,290	140,072	140,072
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR	194,168	195,361	197,979	197,979
151	TOWN COUNSEL	74,425	55,000	70,000	70,000
159	SHARED COSTS	56,174	64,250	71,232	71,232
161	TOWN CLERK	115,160	122,194	115,137	115,137
175	PLANNING	61,901	64,731	66,239	66,239
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	1,527	2,080	2,480	2,480
182	MEDIC	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
190	PUBLIC BLDG UTILITIES	87,929	116,960	122,880	<b>102,880</b>
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	997,039	1,021,148	1,053,985	1,033,985
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			3.22%	
PUBLIC SAFETY					
211	POLICE	1,175,570	1,153,903	1,218,801	1,218,801
211	POLICE CRUISER	42,109	37,000	39,500	39,500
212	DISPATCH	211,628	208,612	228,679	228,679
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR	111,290	116,612	118,412	118,412
244	SEALER OF WEIGHTS	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	5,591	5,740	5,740	5,740

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DEPT NO.		EXPENDED FY12	BUDGET FY13	REQUESTED FY14	RECOMMEND FY14
292	ANIMAL CONTROL	2,915	5,050	3,050	3,050
294	FOREST WARDEN	1,584	1,584	1,631	1,631
299	TREE WARDEN	11,646	11,867	12,670	12,670
511	BOARD OF HEALTH	90,765	114,889	121,933	121,933
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,655,848	1,658,007	1,753,166	1,753,166
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			5.74%	
	PUBLIC WORKS				
420	DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS	891,574	986,936	1,040,424	1,040,424
420	DPW CAPITAL OUTLAY	8,000	-	-	-
423	SNOW & ICE	98,769	212,000	225,080	<b>212,000</b>
433	SOLID WASTE	429,561	435,950	452,000	452,000
491	CEMETERIES	5,537	6,000	8,500	8,500
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,433,441	1,640,886	1,726,004	1,712,924
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			5.19%	
	HUMAN SERVICES				
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	27,479	28,793	29,138	29,138
543	VETERANS' SERVICES	104,221	107,500	152,500	152,500
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	131,700	136,293	181,638	181,638
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			33.27%	
	CULTURE & RECREATION				
610	LIBRARIES	299,984	303,901	324,259	324,259
630	PARKS & RECREATION	95,350	97,935	94,328	94,328
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	-	500	500	500
693	WAR MEMORIALS	762	1,200	1,200	1,200
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	396,096	403,536	420,287	420,287
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			4.15%	
	DEBT SERVICE				
700	DEBT SERVICE	605,329	649,784	640,755	<b>630,755</b>
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			-1.39%	
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
840	INTERGOVERNMENTAL	80,312	83,075	88,068	88,068
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			6.01%	
	MISCELLANEOUS				
910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,677,846	1,812,892	1,839,313	1,839,313
946	GENERAL INSURANCE	79,991	82,589	85,067	85,067
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	1,757,837	1,895,481	1,924,380	1,924,380
	PERCENT INCREASE FROM FY13			1.52%	
	GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	7,057,601	7,488,210	7,788,283	7,745,203

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DEPT NO.	EXPENDED FY12	BUDGET FY13	REQUESTED FY14	RECOMMEND FY14
PERCENT INCREASE FROM PY		6.10%	4.01%	3.43%

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$7,745,203 for the Fiscal Year 2014 Town Operating Budget, with \$125,000 funded from Free Cash and \$7,620,203 funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Special Articles on Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

**Computer Equipment/Software** -request \$8,200 from taxation

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$8,200 for Computer Equipment/Software, funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Police Equipment/Repairs** -request \$20,000 from taxation

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$20,000 for Police Equipment/Repairs, funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Mr. Naughton is interested to see the spending history of these three articles going forward to determine if there's a real value in keeping these as special articles to allow carryovers of unspent balances, or whether it makes more sense to include them in the operating budget.

**DPW Equipment/Repair** -request \$75,000 from Stabilization

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$75,000 for DPW Equipment/Repairs, funded from Town Stabilization.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Final lease payment on 2 dump trucks** -request \$54,055 from Taxation or Stabilization

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$54,055 for the final lease payment on two 6-ton dump trucks, funded from Town Stabilization.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Lease payment #2 of 5 for dump truck** -request \$44,000 from Taxation or Stabilization

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$44,000 for the second lease payment on a 6-ton dump truck, funded from Taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Purchase of Dump Truck with Plow** - request \$50,000 from Stabilization

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$50,000 for the purchase of a dump truck with plow, funded from Town Stabilization.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Replace furnace at Montague Center Library** – request \$10,000 from Taxation

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$10,000 to replace the furnace at the Montague Center Library, funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Maintenance at the Montague Center School** – request \$10,000 from Taxation

Fiscal Year 2013 year-to-date expenditures are \$13,934. The balance in the current article is \$7,113.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$10,000 to maintain the Montague Center School building, funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Windows at Unity Park Fieldhouse** – request \$8,000 from Taxation

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$8,000 to replace windows at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, funded from taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Purchase of Bucket Truck** – request \$95,000 from Stabilization or \$21,187 for first lease payment from Taxation or Stabilization

- Mr. Naughton said an outright purchase out of stabilization seems the right thing to do, and if we choose a lease it should come from taxation.
- There was general agreement that this should be an outright purchase.
- Mr. Naughton added that we should be making a mental note to add money into stabilization a regular basis for these types of purchases.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$95,000 for the purchase of a bucket truck, funded from Town Stabilization.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Items not Anticipated** –

The Attorney General's office has approved the wording of the Finance Committee bylaw amendment. The change will take place after the Town Clerk has posted it for two weeks. The effective date of the change is expected to be April 15, 2013.

Mr. Naughton is willing to follow up with the school district on outstanding issues. He will ask for the final budget assessment as voted tonight, remind them we have not received answers to our questions, and respond to Joyce's comments that we have not

responded to her questions by requesting that she submit her questions in writing and we will answer them.

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 PM**

Selectmen Moved:

To adjourn.

Vote: Allen - Aye Boutwell - Aye Fairbrother - Aye

**Finance Committee Adjourned at 7:20 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits –**

- Minutes of March 20, 2013
- Budget Schedule

**Next Meeting**

April 3, 2013 Amend any Fiscal Year 2014 budget votes  
Draft Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting  
Make recommendations on Special Town Meeting articles