

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

June 10, 2015

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**Meeting Date:** June 10, 2015      **Called to Order:** 6:00 PM

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

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Greg Garrison , Sharon Kennaugh (arrived at 6:03 PM), Lynn Reynolds and Michael Naughton.

**Selectmen Present:** none

**Others Present:** Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

**Minutes**

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 15, 2015.

Vote:   3   In Favor     0   Opposed     1   Abstained

**Reserve Fund Transfers**

Board of Assessors Advertising \$4,000

Budget was \$50. Expenditures for first round of advertising for a new Director of Assessing were \$446.20 (Recorder, Gazette and professional website). When the position was re-advertised, the Selectmen decided to broaden the advertising. The bill for 2 Sunday ads in the Republican was \$3,299.10, and the bill for the Worcester Telegram was \$1996.34 Although the Advertising line will still be in the negative after the transfer, there are adequate balances on other line items to offset the remaining advertising deficit.

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$4,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Board of Assessors budget.

Vote:   4   In Favor     0   Opposed     0   Abstained

Sharon Kennaugh arrived at 6:03 PM.

General Insurance \$4,100

This is for a deductible expense for the defense of the Adams insurance claim.

Mr. Naughton wishes the Selectmen had signed their approval of this and provided more information and would like to know how insurance was involved in this claim.

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$4,100 from the Reserve Fund to the General Insurance budget.

Vote:   4   In Favor     0   Opposed     1   Abstained

Legal \$17,000

The additional amount needed is primarily due to the higher than normal expenses associated with Board of Health enforcement issues and real estate issues.

Mr. Naughton is not completely comfortable with this and would have liked more information. This budget started out at \$70,000, we added \$22,500 at a Special Town Meeting, and now they need \$17,000. This is more than a 50% over-expenditure of the original budget. Mr. Naughton wonders if the underlying cause of the shortfall is that there are more cases than anticipated or if there are higher expenses for specific cases.

Ms. Reynolds requested that more background information for this shortfall be made available, and that the Fiscal Year 2016 budget be reviewed for adequacy.

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$17,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Legal budget.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

Town Clerk \$5,000

This is the cost for the Debt Exclusion vote for the Sheffield Window Project. Since we were able to piggy-back this onto the ballot vote for the FCTS issue, the Town is saving money because the costs for both elections are being evenly split between the Town and the Tech School.

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$5,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Town Clerk budget.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

### **June 4, 2015 Meeting**

WPCF Superintendent Bob Trombley, Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, DPW Superintended Tom Bergeron, Capital Improvements Committee Chair Greg Garrison, Finance Committee Chair John Hanold, Tax Collector/Treasurer Patty Dion, and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen met to review the sludge project, discuss future capital needs of the WPCF, and discuss what method to use to allocate net revenues from the sludge processing to the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund. It was agreed that Mr. Trombley would come up with a simple but reasonable calculation to determine the costs related to the sludge process for offset against the revenues. The net revenue would be recommended as an annual transfer to the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund. A more difficult issue is how to explain the benefits of this transfer policy to rate-payers. Mr. Trombley will work on a more detailed list of future capital expenses, Ms. Dion will update the estimated debt costs for those expenses, and this information will be combined for evaluation.

### **Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements-**

Ms. Kennaugh announced that she was not seeking re-appointment, and that this would be her last meeting. Ms. Kennaugh was thanked for her service, and assured that her presence would be missed.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM**

**Set Next Meetings:** July 15, 2015 – Ms. Reynolds will be absent.

**List of Documents and Exhibits:**

- Minutes for April 29, 2015
- Reserve Fund Transfer for Board of Assessors
- Reserve Fund Transfer for General Insurance
- Reserve Fund Transfer for Legal
- Reserve Fund Transfer for Town Clerk