

Meeting Date: April 13, 2011

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

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

Selectmen Present: Pat Allen and Mark Fairbrother

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

Warrant Articles

Selectmen had to make two corrections to the wording of Article #29.

Selectmen Moved:

To amend Article #29 of the Annual Town Meeting by correcting the definition of vehicle cover to read that a tarpaulin type item shall NOT be considered a vehicle cover.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To amend Article #29 of the Annual Town Meeting by inserting the number "5" into the blank underlined space in Section 4A(2).

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Minutes

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 6, 2011.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 6, 2011.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Budget/Warrant Updates

The request for Article #24 of the Annual Town Meeting has been increased from \$50,000 to \$58,000. The increase is needed because the estimates received were higher than anticipated.

The Selectmen voted to approve the new amount when they voted on individual warrant articles on Monday.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$58,000 for pre-development work and site engineering for solar energy generation and industrial development on town land

off Turnpike Road, to be funded from Article #10 of the April 30, 2009 Town Meeting.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Updates on State Aid

Mr. Abbondanzio reviewed the state aid recommendations of the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate is expected to release their budget numbers tomorrow on unrestricted general aid and Chapter 70.

Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting

The latest draft was reviewed. No additional changes were requested.

General Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Mr. Hanold related a conversation regarding the Compact with Tupper Brown, who asked why the Finance Committee had approved a higher use of reserves than that proposed in the Compact and whether this would be detrimental to the effort of trying to get the state to pay their share of costs. Ms. Olsen stated that she had a similar conversation with Jeff Singleton and provided him with the estimated cash flow for stabilization for the next few years, which supports the committee's efforts to show the state that the town can not continue to provide reserves for education.

After discussion, it was decided to let the Technical Committee make the case for a lower assessment amount at Town Meeting.

Mr. Allen remarked that another benefit of the lease option for the street sweeper is that the money for future payments will be worth less in the future due to inflations.

Mr. Abbondanzio stated that by purchasing the sweeper, there is a large increase in use of reserves for Fiscal Year 2012, but by eliminating the future lease payments, it reduces the future years' budgets.

Mr. Fairbrother left the meeting at 6:50 PM. There was no longer a quorum of the Board of Selectmen, so that meeting adjourned.

Ad hoc Committee's Doomsday Report

Ms. Allen reviewed the process used by the ad hoc committee. Ms. Allen then presented her spreadsheet, which categorized each department as legally required, public safety, social benefit, management and education. For each department, the impact of 10% and 20% cuts is shown by both the amount of cut and the likely services to be eliminated under each scenario.

Ms. Allen noted that if the committee continues, decisions made would be the committee's, and any decisions should be made by the Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Mr. Allen cautioned against annually bringing up a doomsday scenario if serious cuts were not actually needed.

Ms. Allen reiterated that the report provides information for a future override scenario, and noted that with the current use of reserves, the scenario is very likely to occur within the next five years.

List of Documents and Exhibits

- Draft Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting
- Doomsday Report from ad hoc committee including 2012 Suggested Actions, a summary of Proposed Budget Scenarios, and a chart of Doomsday Actions
- Latest Cherry Sheets with House Ways and Means Recommendations

Next Meeting

May 4th, 2011 at 6 PM, prior to Pre-Town Meeting

Adjourned 7:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Olsen