

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Yarmouth Town Hall, Room A
September 16, 2013

Present: Jack Moylan, Chair, Cathy Romboli, Vice Chair, Joseph Goldstein, Ed Noto, Phil Morris, and Alan Ferguson

Administration: William Hinchey, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Jack Moylan, Chair, at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Moylan mentioned with sorrow the 12 people and the shooter who were killed in the Navy yard in Washington.

Mr. Hinchey announced that the Town has not found a replacement for Susan Milne yet, and that he would be filling in for now with the Finance Committee.

TRANSFERS: There were no transfers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Alan Ferguson brought up two questions for discussion: 1) He asked whether the present practice of transferring money from a prior year funds to a current year funds was appropriate or even legal. He asked that the Finance Committee get an opinion from Town Council or the DOR. 2) Mr. Ferguson asked for clarification of the Town Charter's wording when it said money could be moved as long as it did not increase the budget. Mr. Ferguson asked for clarification of which budget, Capital, Operating, etc.

After some discussion, Mr. Morris made a motion that Jack Moylan appoint a person to make inquiries to the DOR to clarify and establish the legality of the procedure of transferring prior year funds to the current year. Alan Ferguson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, 6-0-0. The motion was then withdrawn.

Alan Ferguson then made a motion that we request the DOR's instructions relating to the process required to transfer funds from prior year articles to subsequent year's articles. Philip Morris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved, 6-0-0.

Mr. Hinchey cited 3 different places that funds came from other than a vote of Town Meeting:

1. From our own Reserve for emergency and extraordinary items
2. From one Warrant Article to another Warrant Article
3. From one Line Item to another Line Item

Mr. Goldstein pointed out that some departments have their own reserve accounts, for example, the Fire and Rescue Reserve for Appropriations Account. He said this allowed for immediate fund needs.

Mr. Hinchey answered Mr. Ferguson's question regarding the movement of funds and the budgets. He said that the Capital Budget's line items moved within that budget and the Operating Budget' line items moved within that budget. In both cases, the budget's totals stayed the same.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

The Transfer Station had been operating at a surplus until the last couple of years when they began using the Bourne Landfill and experienced deficiencies. The Town is now investigating privatizing the Transfer Station.

The current SEMASS tipping fee is coming to an end. The current tipping fee is \$37.57, and the new tipping fee is \$69.75, negotiated down from \$80 two and a half years ago. The private Covanta SEMASS lease agreement at \$3 a ton should lead to net revenue. Also, the Railroad has agreed to tear up the put or pay agreement to put 100,000 tons and pay for 100,000 tons. The concept was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Director's position has not been filled to date. There is an article for the next Town Meeting to break the job up into two jobs, a Town Accountant and a Director of Finance. The Accounting Department is in transition. The Town Accountant will be the Finance Committee's liaison in the future.

Mr. Hinchey distributed a list of open Warrant Articles from prior years amounting to \$48,000. Of these, Mr. Hinchey said \$11,000 could be closed out and returned to Free Cash.

MINUTES:

Cathy Romboli asked that the word "Warrant" be inserted before the word "Articles" in the first sentence of the third paragraph under **TRANSFERS**.

Philip Morris moved that minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Joseph Goldstein, and unanimously approved, 6-0-0.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be October 28, 2013 at the Yarmouth Town Hall, Room A, at 6:30 p.m. Committee members' liaison positions will be reviewed, and the FinCom needs a member Secretary. Mr. Ferguson announced that there is a meeting of the Association of Town Finance Committees October 19, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Franklin Tri County Vocational High School in Franklin, MA. Cathy Romboli asked Mr. Hinchey if the Finance Committee member's dues had been paid to the Mass Municipal Association.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 p.m. by Joseph Goldstein and seconded by Jack Moylan. The vote was unanimous, 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Grace E. Buckler, Recording Secretary