

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
17 January 2008

Chairperson Judythe Lewis opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 17 January 2008 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, Mathew Hamilton, John LaBrache, Jason Lelio, Paul Ricci and Claire Soares.

Library Director Sia Stewart met with the Committee to review her FY09 budget request. She stated her priorities are book acquisitions and staffing. She reported that she needs to meet the 17 per cent requirement for state certification. There was discussion of the consequences of not attaining certification requirements. She reported that visits from the public are up and circulation is up. There was discussion of other possible revenue sources to supplement the amount required for books and periodicals since the request for \$69,309 is not sufficient to meet the certification requirements.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion and a 5 to 2 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$402,520 and an expense budget of \$170,485 which includes \$19,286 new books, for a total FY09 Library budget of \$573,005.

John LaBrache and Jason Lelio opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

There was discussion of \$10,000 requested for hardware and software in the ATM equipment article and of \$50,000 requested for carpet and paint for the Library. Paul Ricci suggested the possibility of a donation of a computer to reduce that cost.

Ms. Stewart left the meeting following the discussion.

Police Chief Joseph Rebello, Lieutenants Maurice Splaine and Thomas Kelley, and departmental Secretary Laura Casey-Pupek met with the Committee to review the Police Department's FY09 budget request.

There was discussion of sick time used and the resulting need to cover shifts. The Chief indicated he needs two new patrolmen and five new cruisers to reduce the high maintenance costs for high-mileage vehicles.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion and a 6 to 1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$2,498,185 and an expense budget of \$245,653, for a total FY09 Police budget of \$2,743,838.

Jason Lelio opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

The police representatives left the meeting following the discussion.

Paul Basler, Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks, met with the Committee to review the Public Works department's FY09 budget request.

There was discussion of the general highway budget and of the high cost of fuel.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$654,708 and an expense budget of \$296,244, for a total FY09 General Highways budget of \$950,952.

There was discussion of the snow and ice budget and that there was no provision in the budget request to cover the high cost of disposing of sand as hazardous waste.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a total FY09 Snow and Ice budget of \$98,299 of which \$25,000 is for personal services and \$73,299 is for expenses.

There was discussion of the street lighting budget.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a total FY09 Street Lighting budget of \$35,000.

There was discussion of the Solid Waste budget.

There was discussion of the possibility of raising the fees for transfer-station stickers and of a possible charge for each bag brought to the transfer station. The Treasurer said he would do a cost analysis and have the numbers available in a week.

Upon motion made by Mathew Hamilton and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$120,609 and an expense budget of \$303,410 for a total FY09 Solid Waste budget of \$424,019.

The Committee noted there is no budget request for recycling. Mr. Basler left the meeting following the review.

There was discussion of the Assessors FY09 budget request from which Elaine Fiore was recused.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$156,165 and an expense budget of \$21,000 for a total FY09 Assessor' budget of \$177,165.

John LaBrache opposed the motion and Elaine Fiore did not participate in the vote.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$25,000 for the Revaluation budget.

The Committee reviewed the Collector's budget.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$124,186 and an expense budget of \$42,775 for a total FY09 Collector's budget of \$166,961.

The Committee reviewed the Town Clerk's budget.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$122,834 and an expense budget of \$6,350 for a total FY09 Town Clerk's budget of \$129,184.

The Committee reviewed the budget for Elections and Registrations including the Registrars' request for an additional \$200 for the CART services and HAVA program until it receives more information on both.

The Committee reviewed the Health budget.

There was discussion of reducing the amount of the line item for office supplies by \$450 and the travel line item by \$200.

A motion made by Elaine Fiore to recommend a personal services budget of 108,896 and an expense budget of \$14,214, for a total FY09 Health budget of \$123,110 failed for lack of a second.

The motion reflected a reduction of \$450 for office supplies.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, a friendly amendment to reduce the line item for office supplies by \$450 and the travel line item by \$200 was made.

Upon motion made by Judythe Lewis and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$108,896 and an expense budget of \$14,014, for a total FY09 Health budget of \$122,910.

The Committee reviewed the budget request submitted by the Council on Aging. The Committee deferred action on that budget until more information can be received.

The Committee reviewed the Veterans' Agent's budget.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously –

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$31,051 and an expense budget of \$101,370, for a total FY09 Veterans' Agent's budget of \$132,421.

The Committee reviewed the budget request for the Plymouth County Extension Service.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$270 for Plymouth County Extension Service.

The Committee reviewed the budget for the Open Space Committee for which \$5,398 was recommended by the Finance Committee on 10 January 2008.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Elaine Fiore, it was unanimously

VOTED: To rescind the Finance Committee's vote to recommend a FY09 expense budget of \$5,398 for the Open Space Committee; and further

VOTED: To reduce the amount of the Finance Committee's previous recommendation and to recommend instead a FY09 expense budget of \$2,398 for the Open Space Committee.

Ms. Lewis announced that she will step down as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary