

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
28 February 2008

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 28 February 2008 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, John LaBrache, Jason Lelio, Judythe Lewis via telephone conference call, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares.

Water commissioner Robert Kostka and Water Superintendent Matthew Darsch met with the Committee to review the Water Department's FY09 Enterprise Fund. The Commissioner advised the Committee that three articles on the annual warrant will be paid for by borrowing. They left following the review.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously –

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$455,999, an expense budget of \$635,812, and payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt at \$525,845, for a total FY09 Water Enterprise Fund of \$2,073,655.

The Committee reviewed the Sewer Department's FY09 Enterprise Fund request. Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously, by all voting members –

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$384,775, an expense budget of \$689,075, and payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt at \$2,479,739, for a total FY09 Wastewater Enterprise Fund of \$3,553,589.

John LaBrache reviewed expected operating revenues and reported there was a deficit of \$583,000 in the snow and ice account prior to the last storm. The Committee reviewed the school budgets and Ms. Lewis reported that she and Mr. Ricci will meet with John Tuffy next Friday.

The Committee deferred voting on a Data Processing budget until more information is available.

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

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$25,164 and an expense budget of \$21,412, for a total Elections and Registrations budget of \$46,576.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To reconsider the vote of 7 February 2008 to recommend \$3,412,260 for personal services and \$71,066 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$3,483,326 for Employee Benefits; and further

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$3,307,260 for personal services and \$71,066 for expenses, for a total FY09 budget of \$3,378,326 for Employee Benefits

Mr. LaBrache reported the amount represents a reduction of \$105,000 from the amount appropriated last year for group health insurance.

The Committee discussed whether to recommend having an appointed treasurer. Elaine Fiore and John LaBrache recused themselves from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously, by all voting members –

VOTED: To recommend hiring an appointed Treasurer.

The Committee reviewed the town-meeting article for establishing salaries for elected officials. Elaine Fiore and John LaBrache recused themselves from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously, by all voting members –

VOTED: To recommend establishing the Treasurer's work week at twelve (12) hours with an annual salary of \$16,314.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Mathew Hamilton, following discussion, it was unanimously, by all voting members —

VOTED: To reconsider the vote of 7 February 2008 to recommend a FY09 salary increase of \$3,842 for the Town Collector, of \$1,677 for the Town Clerk, and \$7,956 for the Town Treasurer; and further

VOTED: To recommend a FY09 salary increase of \$3,842 for the Town Collector and of \$1,677 for the Town Clerk, for a total increase for those two officials of \$5,519.

The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's FY09 departmental budget. Elaine Fiore and John LaBrache recused themselves from the discussion and subsequent vote.

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

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$116,759 and an expense budget of \$20,850, for a total FY09 Treasurer's budget of \$137,609.

The Committee reviewed the Police Department's FY09 budget and deferred a vote until more information can be obtained. The Committee questioned the following line items; training, health care, office supplies, rubbish removal, animal supplies, and custodial supplies.

The Committee reviewed the Library's FY09 budget.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To reconsider the vote of 17 January 2008 to recommend a FY09 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, and further

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$402,520, an expense budget of \$152,766, for a total FY09 Library budget of \$555,286.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To transfer \$820.75 from the Reserve Fund to the Health Board's expense budget to pay clerical union salaries.

The Committee reviewed articles to be on the town meeting warrant.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 14 asking to reestablish revolving funds for inspection services, shellfish beds, and recreation programs.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on Article 22 asking to provide electric power to the Town Green.

Upon motion made by Elaine Fiore and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on Article 23 asking to demolish the Maple Avenue School.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on Article 24 asking to establish a fund for emergency repairs.

The Committee had no recommendation on Article 25 which pertains to an easement on Lake Street.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To make a recommendation at town meeting on Articles 26 and 27 which pertain to wind turbine legislation and funding.

The Committee discussed Article 29 which pertains to special legislation for a waiver of the time restriction on recouping town funds spent on the sewer project. Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent vote.

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

VOTED: To make a recommendation at town meeting on Article 29 which pertains to town funds spent on the sewer project.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To declare that, due to the depletion of the FY08 appropriation for snow and ice removal, an emergency exists causing the Town to incur liability and, that in the interest of public safety and in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D, the Town is required to make expenditures for snow and ice removal in excess of the available snow and ice appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2008.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meetings held on January 10, 2008, as corrected.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meetings held on January 17, 2008, as corrected.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February, 2008, as corrected.

Jason Lelio abstained from voting on the motion; all other members supported it.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary