

TOWN OF KINGSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes
6 March 2008

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 6 March 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.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda.

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

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$81,125 for Data Processing FY09 expenses.

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

The Treasurer reported there is currently a deficit of \$208,019 in the FY08 Snow and Ice account.

Wage and Personnel Board members Elizabeth White and Richard Gardner met with the Committee. They explained that they have requested a Warrant article asking for \$5,000 to update the 1995 wage-rating manual.

They recommended a 3 per cent increase for all Wage and Personnel employees in FY09. Mr. Gardner explained that he had compared their salaries with those for union workers over the last six-year period and found that they have not enjoyed as high a percentage increase as those in the union.

A motion to recommend a 2.3 per cent as a cost of living increase for Wage and Personnel, made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Paul Ricci, failed following discussion and a 3 to 4 vote. Mathew Hamilton, Jason Lelio and Paul Ricci supported the motion; all other members opposed it.

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

VOTED: To recommend a 2.5 per cent increase for all Wage and Personnel employees in FY09.

Jason Lelio and Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members supported it.

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

VOTED: To recommend unfavorable action on the Wage and Personnel Board's article asking to update the 1995 wage-rating manual.

The Committee reconsidered the Police Department's budget request which was voted on 17 January 2008. Mr. LaBrache submitted corrected numbers for the police budget after having met with the Police Chief.

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

VOTED: To further reduce the line item for Training in the Police Department's personal services budget to \$77,428.

Upon motion made by Paul Ricci and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion and a 5 to 2 vote, it was—

VOTED: To further reduce the expense budget by eliminating \$1,583 requested for rubbish removal and recommend appropriating zero for that line item.

The motion was opposed by John LaBrache and Claire Soares. All other members supported it.

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

VOTED: To eliminate \$450 from the amount requested for Office Supplies in the FY09 Police budget and

recommend appropriating only \$5,000 for that line item.

The motion was opposed by John LaBrache and Claire Soares. All other members supported it.

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

VOTED: To recommend a personal service budget of \$2,469,436 and an expense budget of \$244,520, for a total FY09 Police Department budget \$2,713,956.

The Committee reviewed items on the Capital Plan.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion and a 4 to 3 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$420,000 for the following capital items: \$66,000 for two (2) police cruisers; \$30,000 to refurbish the brush breaker for the Fire Department and \$45,000 to replace the Fire Department's Car 3; and to borrow \$279,000 to purchase a catch basin cleaner for the Highway Department.

Elaine Fiore, Jason Lelio, and Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members supported it.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by John LaBrache, following discussion and a 4 to 3 vote, it was—

VOTED: To recommend an appropriation of \$50,000 for a study of whether to expand the existing police station or build a new one.

Elaine Fiore, Jason Lelio, and Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members supported it.

Upon motion made by Matthew Hamilton and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously —

VOTED: To recommend that voters at the special town meeting authorize the Trustees' expenditure of \$3,500 from the Elizabeth B. Sampson Fund for the Memorial Day parade.

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

VOTED: To recommend that voters at the annual town meeting authorize the Trustees' expenditure of \$28,595 from the Elizabeth B. Sampson Fund for the following purposes:

- \$1,000 for the Town Clerk to provide CART services at town meetings
- \$5,000 for meters for the Fire Department
- \$1,500 for repairs to the Fire Department's Safe Trailer
- \$5,000 for the Luminaries Committee
- \$6,900 for bridges on Conservation property
- \$4,195 for the KES/KIS Destination Innovation program
- \$5,000 for the Jones River Village Historical Society to research land records

Upon motion made by Matthew Hamilton and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously –

VOTED: To recommend favorable action at the annual town meeting to use Community Preservation Funds to acquire land on River Street for open-space purposes.

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

VOTED: To recommend that no motion be made for an equipment article.

There was discussion of the schools budgets that will be addressed with School Committee members at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 1 of the special town meeting Warrant pertaining to supplementing various FY08 departmental budgets.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 2 of the special town meeting Warrant pertaining to appropriating funds for repairs to the Elm Street pumping station.

Upon motion made by Matthew Hamilton and seconded by Jason Lelio, following discussion, it was unanimously—

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 3 the special town meeting Warrant pertaining to reserving Community Preservation funds for future appropriation.

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

VOTED: To recommend favorable action on Article 5 the special town meeting Warrant pertaining to the position of Town Treasurer.

John LaBrache abstained from voting on the motion; all other members supported it.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2008 as submitted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary