

**TOWN OF KINGSTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes  
5 March 2009**

Chairman Mathew Hamilton opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7 PM on 5 March 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, John LaBrache, Jason Lelio, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda.

There was discussion of a document Paul Ricci submitted which contains comparisons of library staffing, hours, budgets, and services.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$407,982 for the library based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$113,514 for a total FY10 library budget of \$521,496.

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

Selectman Paul Gallagher met with the Committee to report that the Board of Selectmen is planning to –

- open a special town meeting on 4 April 2009 and conduct all business on the special town meeting warrant;
- open the annual town meeting on 4 April and address articles on the warrant with the exception of money articles;
- adjourn the annual meeting on 4 April at approximately 1 PM to a day to be determined on which to address financial articles and other unfinished business.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$1,608,668 for the Fire Department based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$268,873 for a total FY10 Fire Department budget of \$1,877,541.

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

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$2,238,587 for the Police Department based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$242,175 for a total FY10 Police Department budget of \$2,480,762.

Paul Ricci opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$103,920 for the Solid Waste Department based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$335,000 for a total FY10 Solid Waste Department budget of \$438,920.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$606,996 for the Streets, Tree, And Parks Department based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$271,032 for a total FY10 Streets, Tree, And Parks department budget of \$878,028.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a personal services budget of \$145,493 for the Council on Aging based on FY09 level funding and an expense budget of \$22,425 for a total FY10 budget of \$167,918 for the Council on Aging.

The Committee discussed responding to a letter from the Town Administrator pertaining to filling a vacancy in the Collector's office. The Committee will send a letter advising

that the position has not been funded because of the existing hiring freeze but would be funded at the appropriate level if the Selectmen waive the existing hiring freeze for that position.

The Committee reviewed the Fire Chief's request to transfer \$50,154 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department's FY09 personal services budget for overtime and noted there are no funds available for the transfer in the Reserve Fund.

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

**VOTED:** To deny the Fire Chief's request to transfer \$50,154 from the Reserve Fund.

There was discussion of the Elementary School Committee's deliberations on its FY10 budget proposal.

The Committee reviewed some of the articles on the annual town meeting warrant.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend that town meeting vote favorably on the expenditures recommended by the Trustees of the Elizabeth B. Sampson.

The Committee discussed two articles requesting capital items for the Water and Sewer Departments. Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent votes.

Mathew Hamilton reported the Capital Planning Committee will not move a town meeting article requesting a new truck for the sewer department.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend that town meeting vote favorably on the purchase of a new truck for the Sewer Department.

Claire Soares and Lawrence Hunt opposed the motion; John LaBrache abstained from voting on it; all other members present and voting supported it.

Upon motion made by Jason Lelio and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To recommend that town meeting vote unfavorably on a request of the Water Department to continue funding of its water-meter replacement project.

Matthew Hamilton and John LaBrache opposed the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

The Committee discussed writing to the Town Administrator asking him to make necessary adjustment to the heating system in the Town Hall.

Upon motion made by Claire Soares and seconded by Paul Ricci, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2009 as amended.

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 26 February 2009 as amended.

Matthew Hamilton abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

The Committee discussed writing to the Board of Selectmen to ask it to solicit agreement from the Wage and Personnel employees and all town unions that FY10 salaries and wages be frozen at the FY09 level, to uphold a hiring freeze, and to advise the Board that the Committee finds that acceptance is the only way to avoid significant reductions in staffing, hours, and services.

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

**VOTED:** To compile an alternate budget showing cuts of 7 per cent from personal services with the cuts already made to expense budgets.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Elaine Fiore, following discussion, it was unanimously –

**VOTED:** To ask that hours of Wage and Personnel employees be reduced the same as those in the KTEU union.

John LaBrache opposed the motion; Paul Ricci abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

There was discussion of stipends paid to 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 –

**VOTED:** To recommend that stipends for elected officials be reduced to \$300 each.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary