

**TOWN OF KINGSTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes  
12 March 2009**

Vice Chairman Jason Lelio opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:30 PM on 12 March 2009 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Elaine Fiore, Lawrence Hunt, John LaBrache, and Claire Soares. Mathew Hamilton and Paul Ricci were absent.

John LaBrache reported on health insurance rates and --

- advised he is estimating employee benefits for FY10 at \$3,541,933;
- said he will hold determination of the town's cost until he determines how many will subscribe to each group program;
- reported there will be an audit for possible savings;
- indicated a retirement number may be issued;
- said that budgets need to be voted to show a 7 per cent reduction in personal service budgets;
- submitted a new FY10 Financial Summary showing proposed numbers based on 85 per cent of the 2008 actual figures;
- reported labor counsel is considering whether the vacated position in the Collector's office can be funded;

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

**VOTED:** To recommend an appropriation of \$3,541,933 for  
FY10 employee benefits.

There was discussion of whether mailing tax bills only twice a year will reduce the revenue flow to the town and of the current hiring freeze.

Elizabeth White and Richard Gardner of the Wage and Personnel Board met with the Committee to discuss a request it received from the Town Administrator to have employees classified under the Wage and Personnel Bylaw accept a wage freeze for FY10. They said they –

- wish to wait until the KTEU votes on the wage freeze question;
- will call a meeting of W & P employees as soon as possible to discuss the issue with them;

- have not voted on whether to convert the compensation for committee secretaries to an hourly wage;
- have received requests for reclassifications of three library employees;
- were proposing a 2.5 increase for W & P employees.

Mr. Gardner and Ms. White left following the discussion,

The Committee deferred votes on special and annual town meeting articles until the next meeting on 19 March 2009.

Elaine Fiore reported the Sewer Commissioners will not ask to fund a position for an additional plant operator and noted areas of increased expense in the Wastewater budget.

The Committee reviewed items on the agenda. There was discussion of the Water Enterprise Fund. Elaine Fiore recused herself from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend for the Water Enterprise Fund a personal services budget of \$459,801 and an expense budget of \$345,876 totaling \$805,677 and \$515,662 for principal and interest on outstanding debt for a FY2010 total of \$1,321,339.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$285,537 and \$62,284 for expenses for a total FY10 budget of \$347,821 for the Selectmen's department.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Lawrence Hunt, following discussion, it was unanimously—

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$143,403 and an expense budget of \$18,300 for a total FY10 budget of \$161,703 for the Assessor's department.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$32,059 and an expense budget of \$3,392 for a total FY10 budget of \$35,451 for the Planning department.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$100,492 and an expense budget of \$14,014 for a total FY10 budget of \$114,506 for the Board of Health.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$135,508 and an expense budget of \$22,425 for a total FY10 budget of \$157,933 for the Council on Aging.

The Committee discussed the Library budget.

Upon motion made by John LaBrache and seconded by Claire Soares, following discussion, it was--

**VOTED:** To reduce the Library's personal services budget by \$50,000 and to recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$357,982 and an expense budget of \$113,514 for a total FY10 budget of \$471,496 for the Public Library.

Lawrence Hunt abstained from voting on the motion; all other members present and voting supported it.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$116,341 and an expense budget of \$34,475 for a

total FY10 budget of 150,816 for the Collector's department.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$2,280,085 and an expense budget of \$242,175 for a total FY10 budget of \$2,522,260 for the Police department.

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

**VOTED:** To recommend a FY10 personal services budget of \$1,501,190 and an expense budget of \$268,873 for a total FY10 budget of \$1,770,063 for the Fire department.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2009 as amended.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary