

**TOWN OF KINGSTON
MASSACHUSETTS
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes
22 April 2010**

Chairman Elaine Fiore opened a meeting of the Finance Committee at 7:00 PM on 22 April 2010 at the Kingston Town Hall. Also present were Jason Lelio, David Lofstrom, Lawrence Hunt, Paul Ricci, and Claire Soares. Mathew Hamilton was absent. Town Administrator Jill Myers and Town Treasurer John LaBrache also attended.

Superintendent Paul Basler met with the Committee to review the DPW department's FY11 budget requests. He reported that the Streets, Trees, and Parks Division has lost three positions, one of which became vacant in 2009, and, at the least, he is seeking replacement for a senior employee who is retiring and one entry-level employee. There was discussion of -

- whether the Board of Selectmen would lift the hiring freeze to replace employees lost;
- how to cover sick- and vacation-time buyback for exiting employees;
- the addition personnel needed and cost associated with operating the drain-cleaning machine;
- transferring \$15,000 for gasoline from the Streets, Trees, and Parks division to the Solid Waste department.

Mr. Basler said he would write a letter to the Finance Committee justifying lifting the hiring the hiring freeze.

The Committee reviewed the Streets, Trees, and Parks budget.

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

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$602,729 and an expense budget of \$270,000 for a total Streets, Trees, and Parks FY11 budget of 872,729.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Solid Waste budget.

Mr. Basler reported that the cost of rubbish removal is subject to contract negotiations. Again it was noted that \$15,000 for gasoline has been transferred from the Streets, Trees, and Parks division to the Solid Waste department.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Hunt and seconded by Claire Soares, following the discussion, it was –

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$109,831 and an expense budget of \$326,923 for a total FY11 Solid Waste budget of \$436,754.

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

The Committee reviewed and deferred consideration of the Snow and Ice budget. The Committee will recommend that the Selectmen agree to use only salt on the roads instead of a mixture of salt and sand in order to eliminate the cost of removing the sand.

Council on Aging Director Muriel Boyce met with the Committee to discuss her department's FY11 budget request.

The Committee reviewed the various line items in the budget and there was discussion of added expense related to the expected opening of the new Senior Center and having a new line item for electricity and fuel.

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

VOTED: To recommend a personal services budget of \$149,023 and an expense budget of \$38,825 for a total FY11 budget for the Council on Aging.

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

VOTED: To reconsider the Committee's previous vote on the Care of Municipal Property budget.

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

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

VOTED: To leave the personal services at \$55,426.25 as previously voted and to increase the property repair line item to \$12,757 for a total expense budget of \$110,709 and a total Care of Municipal Property budget of \$166,135.

The Committee noted that police arbitration results and other contracts are still outstanding as are water and sewer allocated charges.

At the request of Paul Ricci, the appointment with the Library Director was moved to 6 May. He distributed copies of spreadsheets from the Commonwealth's Library Department showing a history of costs of Library staffing and operational costs to discuss with the Director at that time. He reported having sent copies to the Director and asked for her comments.

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April as submitted.

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

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

VOTED: To accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April as corrected.

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

There was discussion of changing the payment to secretaries of three committees from an annual salary to an hourly rate. Elaine Fiore suggested maintaining an annual salary for them but changing the salary to \$4,500. Claire Soares suggested changing it to an hourly rate as previously proposed.

There being no further discussion or vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam MacInnis, Secretary