

Finance Committee Minutes

Date: April 13, 2010

Time: 7:34

Lillian Whitney: Chairman

Martha Svedberg: Secretary

Melissa Coyle:

Kevin Stetson:

Jack Minch (reporter)

Mary Krapf

Tim Bauman

American Legion Reps

See attached list of others in attendance:

Reviewed Town Accountant letter dated April 9, 2010 addressing the ALS payments. Payments to Townsend are based off a contract that had not been supplied to fin com, and our previous request for information had been ignored. (Nancy supplied a copy)

American Legions was invited to discuss building repair issues  
-Pictures were shown pictures of damage from years of neglect  
-Stated building should be condemned, wire-code violations, chimney needs repair, rooted wood, mold growth on exterior of building, yrs of neglect were visible  
Estimates to repair the buildings were not provided; American Legion Reps estimated repairs between \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00. This is a Historical Building.

Lillian will provide grant information, also referred to John Steffian for Historical information. They could also call Jennifer Collins to meet with BOS.

Adjourned to the BOS room due to over crowding @ 8:50

Reserve fund transfers:

#10-23 \$2021.98 for EMS/ALS charges

#10-27 \$225.00 Assessor expense repairs and computer

#10-28 \$944.18 EMS/ALS charges

#10-29 \$10.93 Historic Commission Exp.Utility bill

#10-30 \$1642.50 Fire Fighter wages

Review and voted on draft articles dated 4/13/2010 Special Town Meeting

**Article 1** -Approved

**Article 2** -Approved

**Article 3** -Approved

**Article 4** -Approved

**Article 5** -Approved

**Article 6** -Approved

**Article 7** -Approved  
**Article 8** -Approved  
**Article 9** -Approved  
**Article 10** -Approved

Review and voted on draft articles dated 4/13/2010 Annual Town Meeting

**Article 1** -Approved  
**Article 2** -Approved  
**Article 3** -Approved  
**Article 4** -Approved  
**Article 5** -Approved

Article 6 discussion:

-Peter, this is a two hundred yr old article  
-Tax Collector does a good job

-Peter states this is illegal, when asked why he waited until now to share this information, Peter states, he just thought about it over the past few days.

-Why did you not tell fin com how she received these other fees? Tax Collector claims she was unaware and has since researched the fees being paid to her.

-(Conversation between Tax Collector and a fin com member) Collector mentioned the fees that she collects & pockets are her incentive to do her job. Ha ha ha! Two problems with collector; First hours are posted for 16 ½ hours of work for a combined salary of \$40,000.00 (more like \$45,000.00 this year). That is a very large salary for so few hours. *Collector responded she will help town people outside her posted office hours. I have been in her office 15 minutes prior to her office hours and she would not help me.* Second; The annual town report list the collector salary as \$29,000.00. Her actual salary varies but will be around \$45,000.00 this year. I think we need to report her income the way her W-2 shows it.

*Someone else mentioned that many of the department heads salaries are being misrepresented in the annual town report, as well.*

I thought all salaries should be appropriately stated in the town report!

-Fin Com asks if there are any requirements or qualifications to holding this position. The response is no this is an elected position.

-Mr. McCallum states once in the position they need to know.....

-Tax Collector states other people in this position have stolen money (Yet supplies no supporting documentation). Also reads and article from a magazine pertaining to a tax collectors position.

After discussion

**Article 6** Motion for a No Action (Mr. McCallum interrupts saying a No Action means that this article stays on the record and can be discussed on the town floor) Martha wanted legal input, motion is made again and accepted unanimously.

(Reporter Peter McMurry, and Tax Collector meet in hall way with other citizens, Peter also meets with American Legion staff after having a personal discussion during this Fin com meeting)

Reporter leaves:

**Article 7** - No Action

**Article 8**-Approved

Peter & Beth Ann return to meeting

**Article 9** -Approved

**Article 10** -Approved

**Article 11** -Approved

**Article 12** - No Action

**Article 13** -Approved

**Article 14** -Approved

**Article 15** - No Action

The wording for this article supplied tonight, three members of fin com expressed interest in attending the hearing on this article set for April 14 2010 before voting.

**Article 16** - No Action

**Article 17** -Approved

**Article 18** -Approved

**Article 19** -Approved

**Article 20** - No Action

**Article 21** -Approved

Review new budget draft:

Discussions included

- Martha asked Peter why he stated that fin com's article was illegal, when the Town Counsels letter supplied to fin com by the Tax Collector was not reflective of this statement. It turns out Peter never actually spoke with Town Counsel thus no written response was given.

- Fin Com asked Peter what changes were made to the budget handed to fin com tonight; this included a \$6000.00 increase to the Dog Catcher wages. Peter states he reduced her wages last year, so he is bringing her wages back plus adding a 2% increase.
  
- Peter increased building repair line by \$3000.00 indicating this will be allocated to the American Legion (Peter was not in the Fin Com meeting when pictures and discussions were addressed with the American Legion Representatives, although he did have a hallway conversation with them) Kevin asked if this would be noted as a separate line item on the budget to assure funding went to the American Legion. Peters response “No, we have enough lines already Jennifer would make a notation”.

Adjourned 9:45