

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting

February 28, 2012

Present: Chris Haynes (chair), Joe Armstrong-Champ (secretary), Kathy Panagiotes, John Margosiak, Kevin Stetson, Sue Carron.

The following members from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) were also present: Peter McMurray, Dan Meunier and Joe Casey

Guests:

Lillian Whitney, Ken Brown, Doug Briggs

Started: 7:35pm

Old Business:

Lease for Ashby Elementary School. FinCom members question why lease is for 10 years instead of 20 years. This is regard to a comment by Dr. Marshall (?) at the special town meeting re: voting on the renovations/cost for the school. Heard by those FinCom members present at that meeting we would have the school for 20 years.

New Business:

This was a joint session with the BOS and the Town Administrator to discuss the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) budget.

RFT 12-10 for \$350 was approved for the Dog Officer's budget.

Ken Brown talked about the increase in the school budget for FY13. There has been \$5 million dollars cut over the last few years and teachers went without a pay increase last year. The school committee is asking for \$250,000 - \$425,000 more from Ashby for next year's budget. The lower end of the range would pay for level servicing the budget. Among other things, the higher end would pay for more teachers in order to lower the class size for some grades. The actual budget numbers from the committee will be out in a few weeks.

Since Ashby's 2.5% yearly increase amounts to about \$135,000, a tax override might be necessary to pay for most of the above proposed increase.

We will be discussing the actual budget items in more detail at the next meeting.

Next regular meeting is March 13 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 pm

Chairman's note: all references to finances are estimates and are likely to change.

