

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 29, 2008**

**Present:** Al DeVito - chair, Richard Knabel, Sharon Estrella, Brian Athearn and Ann Nelson.

**Guests:** Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; John Powers, Board of Health; Don Hatch, Refuse District; Beth Kramer and Hermine Hull, Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Board of Health Budget:**

**#510 Board of Health**

The FY08 budget is presently in line with the projected budget. The Animal Inspector position was implemented last year. John serves in this position, which requires he visit properties where farm animals are kept to ensure that basic care (food, water, shelter, cleanliness) is being maintained.

Richard moved for preliminary approval of the Board of Health Budget #510 with a second by Brian. The motion passed 5-0.

**#522 Health Services**

John explained the roster billing allowed all six towns to by anything not state supplied as a group. A revolving fund has been established for this purpose. Each town pays just their portion of the bill - i.e.: #of shots per town x cost = share. He noted that the hospital has covered the expense of needles, swabs and disposal.

Brian moved with a second by Sharon to preliminarily approve the Health Services budget #522. The motion passed 5-0.

**#433 Local Drop Off**

Fixed costs include staff, quarterly inspections and porta potty. Variable costs are for MSW transportation. The variable costs are matched by income. Appropriation pays fixed costs. John is using historic figures to arrive at his figure of \$71, 085 and noted that the district has done a good job of calculating costs.

A motion was made and seconded to preliminarily approve the Local Drop Off Budget #433. The motion passed 4-1, with Richard requesting John come back in one month for further discussion.

**MV Refuse Disposal District Budget #439:**

Don Hatch pointed out that the WT assessment for FY09 is down by \$616.23. Assessments are based on tonnage. The LDO is based on labor and fees. MVRRD health costs will go down approximately \$16,000 due to the fact that the Master Health Plan will not be offered.

Sharon moved with a second by Brian to preliminarily approve the MV Refuse Disposal District #439. The motion passed 4-1.

**Library Budget #610:**

Brian recused himself from discussion of the library budget as he is contracted by the library to service the computer system. Hermine Hull read into record a letter sent by library trustee Ginnie Jones, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ginnie's letter was in support of the work and the budget of librarian Beth Kramer noting the care Beth has

given to present a budget that addresses previous problems, sets fair compensation for staff, provides services consistent with demand and is fiscally responsible.

Beth discussed an increase of library hours by 5 hours a week. She will craft a warrant article to cover the actual costs to cover the additional hours. Beth wishes to have a warrant article, rather than include this expense in her budget, so voters can see the actual costs of adding the hours and have the opportunity to vote on the proposed increase. She explained more hours will not increase employee benefits and that she is waiting to increase steps for employees who are eligible. She has also cut her program budget from \$3,000 to \$1,000, and has asked friends to fund advertising, to which they have agreed. Beth has applied for state grants that she feels confident of receiving.

Beth has outlined maintenance costs for the near future and explained that there is no room to cut the maintenance expenditure.

Ann moved with a second by Sharon to preliminarily approve the Library Budget #610. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Brian abstaining.

#### **Board of Selectmen Budget #122:**

Due to the fact that Skip does not take a stipend as selectman, Jen has added \$1,050 since this is an election year and if Skip is not re-elected a new selectman might do so.

Brian moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Board of Selectmen Budget #122. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Executive Secretary Budget #123:**

The increase in this budget is to cover the step increase.

Richard moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Executive Secretary Budget #123. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Legal Services Budget #151:**

This line item is tracking very well ytd. When questioned as to the possibility of a lawsuit, Jen responded that there is a minimal chance and if so, the town may get assistance from the state.

Ann moved with a second by Richard to preliminarily approve the Legal Services Budget #151. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Public Restrooms #185:**

Sharon moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Public Restrooms Budget #185. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Town Hall Budget #192:**

The decrease in this budget by 45.5% is due to the exclusion of \$55,000 from last year's budget for window repair/replacement. The work had been scheduled for last summer, but since the specs didn't arrive until the fall and the work could not be done going into the winter, it seemed best to wait to see if the town hall renovation project is approved at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Brian moved with a second by Richard to preliminarily approve the Town Hall Budget #192. The motion passed 4-1.

#### **Insurances Budget #193:**

In December Jen asked the agent for a projected increase. He expects a 5% increase.

Brian moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Insurances Budget #193. The motion passed 5-0.

**Town Report Budget #195:**

Level funded.

Richard moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Town Report Budget #195. The motion passed 5-0.

**Street Lights Budget #424:**

Level funded.

Brian moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Street Lights Budget #424. The motion passed 5-0.

**Cemeteries #491:**

Revenue depends on the number of lots sold. Jesse has worked quite well on maintenance and upkeep.

Brian moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Cemeteries Budget #491. The motion passed 5-0.

**Veterans' Benefits Budget #543:**

There are presently no veterans being served. The decrease in the budget provides for the possibility of coverage during FY09

Richard moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Veterans' Benefits Budget #543. The motion passed 5-0.

**Public Officials Liability Insurance Budget #945:**

Includes the expected 5% increase in insurance rates.

Brian moved with a second by Ann to preliminarily approve the Public Officials Liability Insurance Budget #945. The motion passed 5-0.

**Other Business:**

Al's OpEd will include the names of all the FinCom members.

Brian informed the members that the Paths Committee will be requesting a transfer that he recommends be passed.

Brian has looked into the possibility of an online survey and reports that it should be no problem.

Ann noted Bruce's pickup on the error made in the Gazette regarding the percentage increase for FY08. The Gazette reported an increase of 9.5 %, but the increase is actually 2.65%.

Thanks were given to Matt Taylor of MVTV for taping the meeting.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 12 at 4:30pm.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk