

**Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, April 30, 2002
Fairbank Senior Center
7:30PM**

Present: Co-Chair Sheila Stewart, John Nikula, Don Hutchinson, Larry Rowe, Tracy Billig, Bob Jacobson, Martha Ragonos Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director & Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

Item 1 Introduction of New Members

Sheila Stewart, Co-Chair opened the meeting at 7:35pm with introductions of the members and new members of the committee. New members include Bob Jacobson and Martha Ragonos.

Item 2 Approve Minutes from prior Meetings

John Nikula stated concerns about minutes from the February 7th meeting. Minutes show that he was present for the meeting, but was absent from voting on item #1. He states he was there for the vote, and he should be shown as “abstaining”. Finance Director, Kerry Speidel, will make the correction.

The Committee also discussed legality concerns about minutes being approved by the new members since they did not vote on any of the issues. Kerry Speidel advised the committee that the four original members (Stewart, Nikula, Hutchinson, & Billig) could vote on the minutes and that the two new members may abstain from voting.

The committee decided to approve all minutes from the previous meetings.

Item 3 Election of Chair / Vice-Chair

Co-Chair Sheila Stewart informed the committee that at this time due to family obligations she will no longer be able to serve as Co-Chair, but was willing to help out on an as needed basis. John Nikula nominates Tracy Billig and Don Hutchinson. Tracy is willing to serve as a co-chair, but Don is not sure if he is able to commit to the time required and needs some time to think about this opportunity. Larry Rowe states that he is not interested in the position.

The committee agrees to discuss this item more at the next meeting.

Item 4 Reserve Fund Transfer Requests :

No. 02-16 to Building Dept./Town Building Maintenance for \$30,000

No. 02-18 to Building Dept./Town Building Maintenance for \$25,000

Kerry Speidel, Finance director, stated the Building Department is requesting a Reserve Fund transfer for the total of \$55,000 to cover the cost of utilities for Town Buildings (ex: Flynn Building, Fairbank Center, Town Hall) Kerry also stated that request No. 02-16 was presented around town meeting time, but not voted on due to the need to prepare for Annual Town Meeting, and No. 02-18 will cover the remainder of the year. The main reason for these requests is the unforeseen increase in costs.

John Nikula brought up the question about possibly prepaying the utilities by having money transferred to the Building Dept. and then transferred to carry forward. Kerry Speidel suggested

that this would not be the best solution, but she would discuss the situation with the Town Accountant.

VOTED: Move to approve Reserve Fund Transfers No. 02-16 and No.02-18 to Town Building Maintenance (account 0122512/522320), for the total amount of \$55,000. Motion made by John Nikula. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Item 5 Salary Contingency Transfer Request:

No. 02-19 to Assessor's/ Department Head Salary for \$2,470.82

No. 02-20 to Conservation/Department Head Salary for \$1,936.80

Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, stated that these requests are being made to cover the salaries for the Town Assessor and Conservation Coordinator. The Personnel Office discovered the differences, and they are a result of the FY02 Budgets being put together while the Supervisory union negotiations were still in process.

John Nikula questions if No. 02-20 in the amount of \$1,936.80 is being requested to cover the amount of the raise that the Conservation Coordinator would receive this year. Kerry stated that she did not know the exact amount of the increase in pay for this year, but that the union settled for around a 3% increase this year.

VOTED: Move to approve Salary Contingency Transfers No.02-19 to Assessors Dept. Head salary (account 0111371/511000) for \$2,470.82 and No.02-20 to Conservation Dept. Head Salary (account 0111711/511000) for \$1,936.80. Motion made by John Nikula and second by Larry Rowe. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Item 6 Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Construction Project

Richard Payne, a resident of Sudbury, was allowed to address some concerns and questions regarding the state's reimbursement for the new high school. His concern is that the construction will start and then the town will not see any reimbursement within the five to seven year time frame, and how will the Town finance this project without receiving a reimbursement. Kerry Speidel stated that the Town is expected to receive money between years 5 & 6. She stated that Jack Ryan responded to a question similar to this at Town Meeting.

Sheila Stewart, Co-Chair, recommends this item to be on the June11 meeting as well.

Item 7 Other Items

- **Recreation Revolving Fund** - This is a situation that came to Kerry Speidel late in the afternoon. The committee was informed that there is no Recreation Director currently and that Asst. Town Manager Wayne Walker was currently overseeing the Department. The concern is that summer camps will be starting before the end of the Fiscal Year. The current authorization has been expended in order to keep the programs running. The revolving fund authorization will need to be increased.

Vote: To approve an increase in the FY02 Recreation Programs Revolving Fund from \$125,000 to \$225,000. On Vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed

- **Legal Issues Facing Town of Sudbury**

Mahony Property lawsuit - Town Counsel is currently working on the suit, and Kerry stated she would try to get an update from the Counsel office.

Dog Attack-committee was interested in finding out if the Town will be going to court again, since the owners are appealing the decision to have the dogs destroyed. Kerry Speidel will try to get more information for the committee.

- **Invitation for Town Manager to attend a Finance Committee meeting**

The committee would like to have a time arranged for Town Manager, Maureen Valente, to attend a meeting and discuss the steps and procedures of how the Town enters negotiation with the different unions. Kerry stated she would speak with the Town Manager.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Submitted by:

Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary