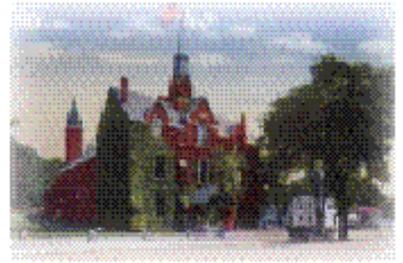


# Town of Ayer

## Finance Committee

### Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, Meeting Room  
 Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday March 14, 2012

Present: Brian Muldoon; Chairman, Scott Houde; Vice Chairman, John Kilcommins; Clerk, Michael Pattenden; member  
 In Attendance: Mary Spinner, Pauline Conley, Marianne Zawacki

Called to order at 7:01 pm by Brian Muldoon

- FinCom Candidate Marianne Zawacki
  - BM Led a discussion of the appointment process.
  - BM-Why are you interested?
  - MZ-The last few years have seen a lot of budget strain. I'm interested in the challenge. This is my area of interest.
  - SH Explained the various committees that FinCom members serve on along with a description of the annual budget cycle.
  - BM-Any ideas on Vicksburg Square?
  - MZ-I don't know the specifics. I like the idea of a new development, but at what strain on the community?
  - BM-Have you looked at the town finances?
  - MZ-At a high level, I look at the items that will impact my homes value.
  - MZ-How does the town support Fort Devens?
  - SH-It's run by Mass Development. Our fire dept supplies mutual aid, this is the only impact on us financially.
  - MZ-What is the impact of the empty storefronts in town?
  - JK-Not a huge impact for the town. The landlord still picks up the real estate tax. We are only losing license and permit fees which are underpriced anyway.
  
- SH-Motion that the we recommend Marianne Zawacki to the BOS for appointment to the Finance Committee.

Motion	SH
Second	MP
B. Muldoon	Aye
S. Houde	Aye
J. Kilcommins	Aye
M. Pattenden	Aye
Vote	4-0

- SH-Motion to accept the 7/20/11, 1/24/12, and 1/25/12 minutes as presented.

Motion	SH
Second	MP
B. Muldoon	Aye
S. Houde	Aye
J. Kilcommins	Aye
M. Pattenden	Aye
Vote	4-0

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- RSC Assessment
  - BM-There has been no official assessment yet. I sent the budget model to the RSC. I expect their vote on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - SH-At 4.5% (increased assessment) we are 35K in the hole, this includes 2% raises. We need to try to hold to our financial policies.
  - BM-We need to pay for retirement, this includes former school employees. There will be give and take over the next few weeks.
  - MP-If we go with 4.5%, are we still putting money into retirement (GASB-OPEB) and stabilization?
  - SH-Yes, but 35K in the hole.
  - MP-But balanced at 2%?
  - BM-Yes, Lisa (Gabree) has found some additional money.
  - SH-At 2.5% we are approximately positive 80K, with a 100K placeholder for GASB. We may end up using the 100K for GASB, stabilization, capital etc...
  - MS Led a discussion on Gary Luca advocating for outsourcing the town hall custodian.
  - SH-Motion to ask the FinCom Chair to ask the BOS Chair as to their direction on this.....
  - MS-This is a union position; you can't just get rid of a union position.
  - SH- I rescind the motion
  - MP-Is there a the due date for the official school budget?
  - SH-Yes, they have to certify it by March 21<sup>st</sup>.
  
- Business Certificates and Business Licenses
  - SH-It (renewal) should be every two years; this allows us to review the rates.
  - PC-Any business in arrears would not be able to renew. Anyone in arrears is allowed a public hearing. An issuance is another discussion point.
  - BM-What does the clerk do now? The clerk is now listed in this process.
    - SH-Motion that the length of business certificates bet cut from four years to two years. I'm open to amend the fees during discussion.
    - MP-I'll second.
    - MP-I don't see anything on building inspections....
    - SH-That's in the bylaws.
  
  - JK-I suggest that we amend the motion as follows. The fee for business certificate issuance should be increased to \$40 and the fee for business certificate changes should be increased to \$20.

Amended Motion	JK
Second	SH
B. Muldoon	Aye
S. Houde	Aye
J. Kilcommins	Aye
M. Pattenden	Aye
Vote	4-0

# Town of Ayer

## Finance Committee

### Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



- Vicksburg Square
  - SH Shared memos prepared by Chief Pedrazzi and Chief Murray.
  - SH-I'm working on a Super Town Meeting (STM) presentation. I will distribute the updated one. I also want to have a one page summary to hand out at STM. We need to get the word out.
  - BM-I'll begin mobilization.
  - SH-I would like to share our 12/14/11 rebuttal with the Public Spirit.
  - JK-I suggest we incorporate Chief Murray and Chief Pedrazzi's feedback.
  - SH-Timing is crucial; we have one news cycle before STM. We also need to use social media.
  - JK-I'm concerned with the timing of putting this out. They have a PR firm to reply to whatever we share.
  - MP-We need to think about our presentation model, we need more hard facts.
  - SH-What you have is a draft. This version has more detail and tangible numbers.
  - MP-Should we consider a rebuttal to Mr. Crosby's letter to the editor?
  - SH-No, no need to reply.
  - SH-We should explore getting child care for STM.
  - PC-I will call Laura Callahan to look into this.
  - MP-This warrant changes the residential zoning.....
  - SH-More than that. Future MOA changes will now go to just the selectmen, not to STM. I've added the fact that our BOS did not do their due diligence on this to our presentation.
  
- Motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm

Motion	SH
Second	JK
B. Muldoon	Aye
S. Houde	Aye
J. Kilcommins	Aye
M. Pattenden	Aye
Vote	4 - 0

Brian Muldoon, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Houde, Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

John Kilcommins, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Pattenden, Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_