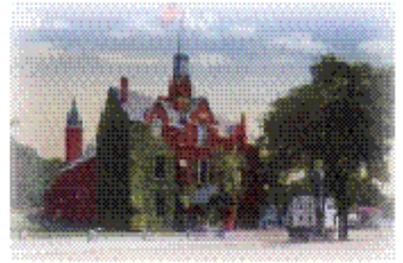


Town of Ayer

Finance Committee

Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st floor meeting room.
Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Present: Brian Muldoon; Chairman, members Scott Houde and Andrew Crowley

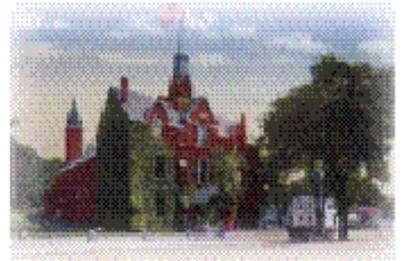
Called to order at 7:00 pm by Brian Muldoon

1. Mail: Handed out mail.
 - a. Shaun Suhoski is resigning. Some discussion about how this may affect the town, budgets etc
Pauline Conley gives a historical perspective on a past town Administrator transition
2. Minutes:
 - a. No minutes
3. Budgets: :
 - a. COA: Karin Dynice-Swanfeldt, outlines the budget for the Council On aging.
 - i. Seeks Increases due to Level Funding, and Grants lower on Revenue side + Longevity boosting salaries on the cost side.
 - ii. Described services and duties performed by the Council Including.
 1. Social Events
 2. Meals, 4000 every year.
 3. Help with setting affairs in order.
 - iii. Also gives a thank you nod to MART for the help with the transportation van. A thank you to the housing department for the use of office space.
 - b. Lisa Gabree (Town Accountant) presents information concerning budgets. Reserve Fund Transfers may be needed for
 - i. Treasure and Collectors office:
 1. Retirements and Transitions trigger need for Audits.
 2. More Tax Delinquent Notices need to be filed.
 3. Tax Title Foreclosures may be needed.
 4. Postage budget higher than expected
 - ii. Animal Control Officer:
 1. Unexpected Rise in need for animal control officer's services.
 - iii. Veterans Agent:
 1. Due to a small overlap in Tenures?
 2. Veterans Benefits are up
 - iv. Street lights:
 1. fund has consistently exceeded budgets in last few years, needs more

Town of Ayer

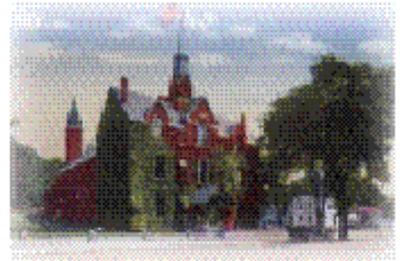
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- v. Snow Removal budget over drawn.
- vi. Budget Tie Ins
 - 1. Solid waste Fund
 - a. Some tipping fees reduced and restructuring of transfer station. Thanks Dan Nason, good job.
 - 2. 100k New Growth according to Assessors Report
 - 3. MAYBE 112k for Stabilization fund according to current numbers.
 - 4. For upcoming Salary Negotiations, each 1% raise on contracts in play will cost ~ \$22,500.
 - 5. Public Buildings & Property Maintenance:
 - a. There is an Unfunded Custodial Position which will need funding. Town Accountant recommends an increase for this budget
 - b. Mary Spinner adds the department is run efficiently and we rely on one man to do a lot
 - 6. 4th of July fund:
 - a. Double from last year as donations are down. This is the request but they will live with what is decided. This covers a band, tents, fireworks, all of which are pre-booked. DPW has other costs and police covered by a community block grant.
 - 7. Audit costs will go up. \$23,500+ Town Accountant department needs this periodically. Some grants blunt this cost but future budgets will need more funding from town.
 - 8. Assessors need \$2700 for more computers. Their computers are nearing end of life and much work is needed in this coming year.
 - 9. Tax Collector will have additional legal fees to pay.
 - 10. Health Insurance alone is up \$455,000. We cannot level fund this item.
 - 11. Police – Cruiser should be a supply Item
 - 12. Fire Department now requesting an extra \$10,000 for turnout gear.
 - 13. Street lighting on page 2 of omnibus budget needs an increase. Dan Nason tried to save money by investigating turning lights off but the cost savings were not apparent after various fees and contracts were taken into account.
 - 14. 41% of our increase in the budget is due to Health Insurance and retirement payments.
 - 15. 45% of our increase in the budget is due to Education Wages- Transportation – and Vocational Education
 - 16. Town Accountant would like to reclaim some outstanding accounts, \$11,000 from parks funds and \$4,800 from Facilities.
- 4. New business:
 - a. Mary Spinner presents request for a Capital Exclusion from the Capital Planning Committee. Requests that the Finance Committee give an endorsement.

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5. Open to the floor:

- a. Pauline Conley asks when we will review selectmen budget and if no plan, please plan.
 - i. Answer, were going over budget with Shaun this evening but Shaun is now out sick. Selectmen do not currently have a budget approved or voted on.

Executive session: Brian Muldoon invited the Chairman of the BOS; Connie Sullivan to join the executive session.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION: Glen Lapierre: I move the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 39, sec. 23B, Exemption No. 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to adjourn from Executive Session into Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Second: by Andrew Crowley ... Roll call vote: FinCom member Glen Lapierre – Aye; FinCom member Scott Houde – Aye; FinCom member Andrew Crowley – Aye; Chairman Muldoon – aye; 4-0 motion passes.

Connie Summarizes BOS Executive session pertaining to contracts;
Limit of 2% Raise authorized

Opinion expressed that to revisit salary for Town hall employees, the benefit which allows starting salaries to be based on last position holder's salary should be revisited and removed.

Debate about viability of giving any raises at all this year.

Andrew Relates His impression of Superior Officers union negotiations.
Informal talks had left with a compromise of 2.5% raise with .05 Shift differential and \$100 education bonus which would affect one Sergeant.

Debate what this means.

Scott Houde motions leave executive session, second by Andrew Crowley. Vote unanimous to adjourn

9:40pm: Motion to adjourn FinCom by Andrew Crowley, second by Scott Houde. All in favor, unanimous

Brian Muldoon, Chairman	_____	Date _____
Jesse Reich, Vice Chairman	_____	Date _____
Glen Lapierre, Clerk	_____	Date _____
Scott Houde, Member	_____	Date _____
Andrew Crowley, Member	_____	Date _____