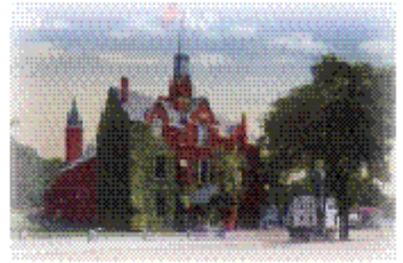


Town of Ayer

Finance Committee

Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall
Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday May 11, 2011

Present: Brian Muldoon; Chairman, Andrew Crowley; acting clerk and Connie Sullivan, member
Absent: Jesse Reich, Scott Houde; Clerk

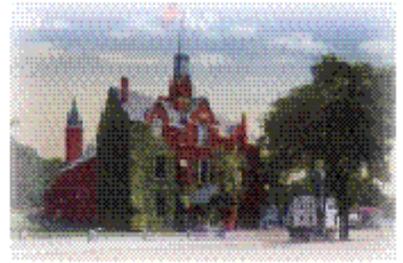
Called to order at 7:05 pm by Brian Muldoon

- Mail
 - Regional School Committee (RSC) sent mail with budget numbers. \$21,316,575 total budget. \$8,416,523 funded through Chapter 70, and \$12,900,052 would be funded through the towns. Ayers share would be \$8,190,760.
 - From the town Clerk/Tax collector, information stating \$146,000 in Real Estate Taxes is currently delinquent.
- Minutes
 - No minutes presented.
 - Outstanding minutes are 4/8/11, 4/13/11, 4/27/11
 - Notice : The Vote is on the 21st of May for the School Feasibility Study. 8-4pm
- New Business:
 - Discuss for a short while about how to make up the Money promised for the Pond Cleanup. This is currently an unfunded article. It is currently unclear to the Fin Com where the money will come from.
 - 1) Suggest budget items all be voted on in future before the vote to fund Stabilization.
 - 2) Suggest that Articles to be pulled should all be pulled at the beginning of the meeting so schedules can be more accurately estimated
 - RSC Feasibility Study update: Pat Kelly
 - This is the 2nd attempt to garner the votes needed to authorize the study.
 - The Renovation of the Middle/High school is too critical to the region to give up on.
 - RSC needs to work harder to communicate the importance of the issue.
 - The project would aid in Ayers Drive to become a green community.
 - The project would provide good educational opportunities in green topics for the students.
 - The feasibility study will drive whether an addition or a straight renovation is performed. The decision will be based on the requirements for educating the projected student populations and an objective assessment of the cost of renovating the current building to meet those needs vs. renovating and adding an addition to meet those needs..
 - By putting the renovations under the control of the region rather than taking action before the region was formed, we are lining up for a 6% higher reimbursement rate from the state.
 - A copy of a Feasibility plan from Littleton was presented to show that it is not simple design drawings as had previously been alluded to by some, but assessments of existing spaces and assessments of the needs of the students and how the plans will meet those needs as well as design plans.
 - Ayershirleryregion.org has links with information on various aspects of this issue.
 - 67.6% of the costs will be reimbursed by the state and if we can go green, we may be in line for a few more % points.
 - There will be no reimbursement without the study.
 - The study will take 12-15 months to complete. It will look at the Design, and Suitability of every space within the buildings and assess how they can be used to meet the requirements needed for a Middle/High School.

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- It is also emphasized that we do not need to borrow all 750k, The state requires we be able to borrow the entire cost if needed but the state will reimburse us as we go so we will be borrowing a small amount and using reimbursement monies to move forward on the project.
- What happens to students during the construction?
- Part of the plan is to keep the middle school students in Shirley so the Middle/High School is half empty during the renovation. This will help save time and costs by allowing work to proceed in empty parts of the building.
- Suggestion from the audience that we move to counter old emails that pegged the cost closer to 200k. Those estimates were early estimates before there was an understanding of the scope of the requirements which were updated by MSBA relatively recently. Also a reassurance that this authorization authorizes the funds ONLY for the feasibility study, and not for other purposes.
- Connie points out the cost is based on a fairly straight forward formula based on the square footage.
- The need is there as school students opting to choice out is beginning to trend upward recently. The renovation is a big part in the effort to reverse this trend.
- Will this cause budget problems for the current budget?
No, the major renovations will not begin until after the feasibility study is complete.
- There would likely be no impact on costs until 2013 or beyond.
- Motion to Support the Feasibility Study.

Motion	CS
Second	AC
B. Muldoon	Aye
J. Reich	Absent
S. Houde	Absent
A. Crowley	Aye
C. Sullivan	Aye
Vote	3 - 0

Vote passes, 3 to 0, unanimous

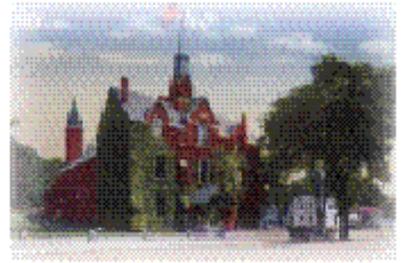
○ Summer Objectives

- Expenditures vs. Revenues need to be balanced
- We need to start Brainstorming e.g. rates and fees
- Connie remarks Solid waste Enterprise fund whose rates are set through the board of health should be more self sufficient.
- And that awareness of the need to fund what is known as the GASB45 liability needs to be raised.
- Pauline suggest quarterly reviews of the budgets to see where they are to spot waste and keep an eye out for end of year spending sprees. Brian points out we get monthly updates from the Town accountant.
- Brian points out that Andrews Term is coming to an end. Will you renew your term Andrew?
Andrew answers no. Not unless I was required to help keep a quorum alive. Then I would only do so on a temporary basis.

• Motion to adjourn:

Motion	AC
Second	CS
B. Muldoon	Aye
J. Reich	Absent
S. Houde	Absent
A. Crowley	Aye
C. Sullivan	Aye
Vote	3 - 0

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Brian Muldoon, Chairman _____ Date _____

Jesse Reich, Vice Chairman _____ Date _____

Scott Houde, Clerk _____ Date _____

Andrew Crowley, Member _____ Date _____

Connie Sullivan, Member _____ Date _____