

Town of Ayer
Finance Committee
Ayer Massachusetts, 01432



Location: Ayer Town Hall, Meeting Room
Finance Committee Minutes

Wednesday February 26, 2014

Present: Scott Houde; Chairman, John Kilcommins; Vice Chairman, Marianne Zawacki; Clerk.
In Attendance: Robert Pontbriand, Mary Spinner, Carl Mock, Frank Maxant, Lisa Gabree, Evan Katz

Call to order at 7:02pm by Scott Houde.

- Review of Upcoming Expenditures/Town Counsel
 - RP – Ms. Lewis will be retiring in 6/14; will need RFT for buyout of \$8,140.80.
 - RP – Proposing salary of \$45,455.76, Grade 8 Step 2 (Please see 2/26 Memorandum)
 - RP – Will be attending BOS meeting on Tuesday
 - RP – Bolduc enterprises six figure request does not include legal fees

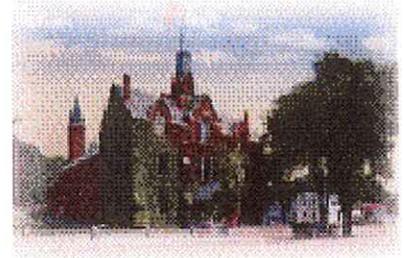
- Review of ASRSD Budget
 - CM – Increase of \$745k needed to offer what we have for FY14
 - CM – Health insurance came in at 3.2% which will be a savings
 - CM – Increase in cost of utilities
 - CM – Teacher lane change of \$20k is a contractual arrangement
 - CM – Lunenburg students down to five next year
 - CM - \$8k in transport reimbursement expected to change
 - CM – Will need increase in special education funding
 - CM – Page Hilltop requires the most repairs
 - SH – Possibility of borrowing UDAG funds for heating
 - EK - \$750-800k for students coming to Ayer; pays for 12 teachers.
 - JK – Is there a provision for OPEB?
 - EK – No
 - SH – Is Ayer paying a higher amount in the first five years or is it just a shift in liability? Ayer is paying \$1.5m more in first five years.
 - General discussion regarding potential reassessment of formula
 - SH – Concerned with Ayer's ability to provide funding due to Shirley's inability to pay.
 - CM – Reserves are inadequate. Repairs and a cold winter have played into exceeding the budget. The Facilities Coordinator has been a cobbled solution.
 - EK – Would like to have greater oversight of custodial staff in the evenings (2nd shift)
 - CM – We need \$200k more than what's in our budget for facilities repair
 - CM – 50 hours per building in the summer months for a secretarial position; special education teacher needed at the high school; more teachers needed in the future due to class size. Assistant Principal position is needed; 50 staff, 400 kids.

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2015 AUG -4 PM 6: 57
Marianne Zawacki

Town of Ayer

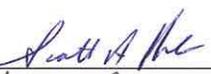
Finance Committee

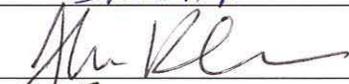
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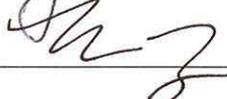


- JK – Is School Choice a fixed cost?
 - EK - \$5k plus special education costs add additional increment; \$6,000-\$6,200. School Choice has a statutory cap; charter school tuition is based on our cost (\$12,000 per student). 90 kids currently attending charter schools.
 - SH – Why is this so expensive?
 - EK – It’s the formula that the state uses; we receive about 10-15% back in what we pay for charter schools.
- Review of FY15 Budget
- LG – Running \$29k deficit due to snow removal
- Non-Union Compensation Study
- SH – RP had extensive list of items not included in the study; anticipates receiving a revised version by Friday. Will be a factor for FY15 budget.
 - MS – Can you put all revenue from meals tax to OPEB?
 - SH – We would need a warrant article for that.
- Capital Planning – No updates
- RSBC – Meeting to take place 2/27
- Personnel – No update
- Financial Policies – Meeting on 3/25 at 7am
- Next Finance Committee Meeting: March 12, 2014 at 7pm
- Motion to adjourn at 9:12pm:

Motion	JK
Second	MZ
S. Houde	Aye
J. Kilcommins	Aye
M. Zawacki	Aye
Vote	3-0

Scott Houde, Chairman  Date 1/14/2015

John Kilcommins, Vice Chairman  Date 1/14/15

Marianne Zawacki, Clerk  Date 1/14/15