

AMHERST FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Meeting of May 2, 2011 at 6:48pm
Amherst Regional Middle School
Band Room

Attendance:

Phil Jackson, Kay Moran (Vice-Chair), Janice Ratner, Bob Saul, Doug Slaughter, Andrew Steinberg (Chair), Marylou Theilman

Others Present:

Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Sarah McKee, Library Trustee; and Amherst Media

Agenda:

1. News affecting budget
2. Positions on articles deferred to Town Meeting
 - a. Article 10, budget amendments
 - b. Article 32, Zoning, filling of land
3. Reconsideration of positions on other Articles and motions, if any
4. Library budget, if amended by Trustees
5. Minutes of previous meetings
6. Schedule for July meeting
7. Member reports – liaisons and committees

News Affecting Budget:

Pooler stated that there was no budget news.

Positions on Article Deferred to Town Meeting:

Article 10 Budget Amendment:

Referring to Article 10, Part A, Pooler stated the it is necessary to request that Town Meeting approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the FY 11 Public Safety budget to the Community Services budget. The transfer is necessary because the Veterans' Services Department has experienced ever increasing demands for services. This increase is consistent with a pattern that has developed over the past several years as more and more service members fighting in the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other veterans require our support. The FY 12 budget for the Veterans' Services Department reflects this development and is increased. The State will reimburse the Town 75% of what we spend on Veterans' benefits. It is possible to transfer funds from the Public Safety budget, because earlier in the year there were vacancies in those departments. At present, both the Police and Fire Departments have hired their full complement of authorized personnel.

Part B of this article, in addition to the \$100,000 voted last spring, would allow a supplemental appropriation from free cash to the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund to pay for extraordinary or unforeseen expenses. The supplemental appropriation is not necessary.

Motion for Article 10, Part A:

Move to amend the action taken under Article 9 of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget by increasing the appropriations and the amounts to be raised by taxation for Community Services by \$100,000, and to meet such increased appropriation by decreasing the appropriation and the amount to be raised by taxation for Public Safety by \$100,000.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion for Article 10, Part B:

Move to dismiss Part B of the article.

Vote: 7-0-0

Article 32, Zoning, Filling of Land

No information was available on this Article, and the Finance Committee took no action.

Library Budget:

McKee reported that the Library budget was adopted as presented in the Finance Committee Report. It was noted that while the Library budget can change, the Town's appropriation is firm.

Motion for Library Budget:

Move to recommend the Library budget of \$2,192,736 with the Town tax support of \$1,644,736.

Vote: 6-1-0

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

None

Schedule for July Meeting:

There is a need for a July meeting to set up a work plan and a fall meeting schedule. In addition, any changes for the FY11 budget will need to be done in July. Please check your calendar and email Steinberg as to which Thursdays you will be available in July.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be May 11, 2011. A motion for Article 32 will be considered at that meeting. Articles 22 and 23 will be considered at that meeting if the operating budget is completed. Outstanding minutes will be approved. Any comments on minutes from Jackson and Saul should be submitted to them by May 9, 2011.

Member Reports – Liaisons and Committees:

None

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Submitted by:

Marylou Theilman, Acting Clerk