

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee  
Wednesday October 28, 2015

Present: Selectman Eric Hevy, Selectman Robert Smith

Also Present: Finance Committee Chair Sheila Orsi, Peter Dupell, Rob Miner, and Chet Lubelczyk

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Police Department Meeting Room by Mr. Hevy. Mr. Hevy chaired the meeting.

Mr. Hevy reviewed the FY16 budget process and the decisions made at the May and June town meetings. He indicated that the draft of the warrant for the November 6, 2015 Special Town Meeting, which had been provided for the information of the Finance Committee the previous week, had been revised by the Selectmen, and two articles had been removed. These related to the Fire Department's request for a new truck, which would have required a debt exclusion, and the Police Department's request for funds for an additional AED. He explained that funds from the Holden Hospital allotment had already been provided to the Police Department by the Selectmen, and that the request would be reconsidered at the May town meeting. Mr. Hevy asked Mr. Smith to explain a draft of the financial statement which had been prepared for the November 6 Special Town Meeting which had been provided to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Smith explained that at the June meeting, the projected deficit was approximately \$301,000. Since that meeting, \$50,000 in new growth has been certified, which had reduced the deficit by that amount. In addition, the Town's 'free cash' has been certified at \$263,688. In addition, \$18,000 in curb cut fees from FY09 through FY11 has been transferred to the General Fund by the Selectmen. However, requests for additional funding of \$81,270 (including \$40,000 for a Police Department cruiser) would be proposed by the Selectmen at the November meeting. In addition, the Town was required to make a \$37,605 payment on the FY15 Snow and Ice deficit. Thus \$290,508 was required to balance the FY16 budget. The Selectmen proposed using \$263,688 in free cash, \$18,000 from the curb cut transfer, and a transfer of \$8,820 from the Group Insurance Account to eliminate the deficit and pay for the additional spending proposed on the warrant. (Attachment)

Each of the key items on the November 6<sup>th</sup> warrant, including the purchase of a second cruiser for the Police Department, was discussed. Mr. Smith noted that all of the old cruisers were costing the Town considerable amounts in repair bills annually, and that two of them should have been replaced four years ago. Purchasing a second cruiser with the funds now available would eliminate this drain on the Police Department's budget going forward. The Highway Department's requests for funds for repairs were

also discussed. It was emphasized that at the time the Highway Department submitted its budget in December/January, the need for these repairs was not known and became evident after the June meeting. (Attachment)

The Finance Committee agreed to give its support to the items contained on the warrant and will meet again with the Selectmen prior to the November 6, 2015 Special Town Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Elementary School Auditorium.

Mr. Hevy also provided members of the Finance Committee with a paper copy of the Preliminary Report of the Foundation Review Commission which had been discussed by the Selectmen and members of the Finance Committee and School Committee and the School Superintendent at a joint meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015 with Senator Gobi and Representative Berthiaume. Senator Gobi had forwarded a copy of the document to the Selectmen for distribution. (Attachment)

There being no further business before the Selectmen, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Hevy to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM,

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Smith