

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

Approved
6-10-09

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2009

Present: Dick Chabot, Frank Hubacz, James Lovett, Chet Lubelczyk, Robert Smith

1. The Meeting was Called to Order by Mr. Lovett at 7:00 PM. Mr. Lovett chaired the Meeting.
- 2..The Minutes of the Meeting of June 4, 2009 were presented. A Motion was made by Mr. Chabot, and seconded by Mr. Hubacz, to approve the Minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous. Attachment
- 3..The Committee discussed the planned June 10, 2009 meeting with a representative of the Bay Path Regional School District regarding the Town's assessment for FY 10. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center.
- 4..A Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen began at 7:16 PM. Mr. Petraitis, Ms. Walter, and Mr. Filipkowski were present, along with Mr. Chabot, Mr. Hubacz, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Lubelczyk, and Mr. Smith of the Finance Committee. The Committee presented a written statement of its recommendations, which were similar to those presented at the June 4, 2009 'Budget Forum' and copies of its estimates of revenues and anticipated expenses, bottom line totals for all Town budgets for FY 10, and a detailed line-item budget. The recommended budget for FY 10 of \$12,481,747.50 was discussed in detail. Revenues from all sources were estimated at \$12,374,478.55 leaving a projected deficit of \$92,310.95 based on available information. It was stressed that the revenue estimates could change, perhaps materially, once the State budget is approved later in June. The Committee noted that for presentation to the voters at the Town Meeting, the budget had to be balanced. It recommended removing \$92,310.95 from the proposed budget, and funding that amount from available funds or 'free cash' in September or October. The Committee recommended that its estimates of revenues and expenses, bottom-line totals, and line-item budget be presented for the information of

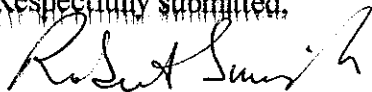
voters at the Town Meeting. It was also suggested that this information could be posted in the Town Offices, and on the Town's website prior to the Town Meeting. In response to a question, it was noted that the Committee's proposed line-item budget did show, in percentages, the differences in FY 09 and FY 10 spending for all Departments. However, it was also noted that several budgets were recommended for funding above FY 09 levels because of special circumstances—debt and interest payments, fees for required audits, etc. Members of the Committee indicated that the financial problems faced in FY 09, and those likely to occur in FY 10, were the most serious in the Town's history. The Committee also recommended to the Board of Selectmen a simplified 'Purchase Order' process for implementation July 1, 2009; a 'freeze' on all non-essential spending for the upcoming fiscal year; and monthly 'Anticipated Spending Reports' from all Departments for FY 10. Since all of the recommendations presented had been explained in detail at the June 4, 2009 'Budget Forum' there was little discussion.

Mr. Petraitis asked the Committee about its concern with the wording of proposed Article 19 regarding the new cruiser for the Police Department. The Committee noted that it agreed that a new cruiser was needed, but that the wording of the Article implied that the voters would be asked to approve an appropriation for its purchase which would be binding if the grant proposal written by Chief Thomasian was not approved. Chief Thomasian, the Board of Selectmen, and the Finance Committee agreed that a slight change to the wording, which would make the purchase or lease of a new cruiser contingent upon receipt of grant funds, could be made that would resolve the problem.

The Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen ended at 8:20 PM. Attachments

5. There being no further business before the Committee, a Motion was made by Mr. Lovett, and seconded by Mr. Chabot, to adjourn the Meeting of the Finance Committee at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Smith