

Minutes of the Board of Finance Budget Review Meeting
March 1, 2010

Members present: Justin Donnelly, Joseph Sangiovanni, Dennis Kreps, Sam Fuller, Ryan Anderson, alts. James Lennon, Peter Boyd Absent: B. Kost, E. Harrington
Also present: First Selectman Frenaye, Selectman Fitzgerald, Treasurer C. Davidson, Director of Finance Deborah Cerrato

Chairman Justin Donnelly called the Budget Review meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
Citizen Comment: None

Overall Budget – First Selectman Frenaye distributed to the board, a budget report, dated March 1, a report from the Acting Assessor, and a multi-page report, documenting all changes in the 2010-2011 proposed Town budget.

*Assessor's Report –

Mr. Frenaye reported that the Oct. 1, 2009 Net Taxable Grand List totals \$1,386,705,343 which is an increase of .52% compared to last year's total. At the present mill rate of 23.15, this increase would generate an additional \$166,578.42 in new tax revenue.

*Town Budget – Mr. Frenaye reported that the Board of Selectmen have not approved the budget, but it is on the agenda for the March 3 BOS meeting. This new budget represents a very small increase in actual spending, less than one-half of one percent (.48%) as is dictated by the difficult economic conditions. The impact of the 53 week payroll represents a 1.7% increase.

*Significant changes – The major increase in the budget is from medical insurance premiums – an estimated increase of 18% or \$143,116. He noted other changes with an impact of more than \$10,000. No new staff or additional new hours are in the proposed budget.

The Town budget has been at a bare bones level for several years now, things are very tight still. The one change in staffing is the use of contracted consultants for Assessor services, and expect that will afford some savings. This should save us perhaps ½ the cost of a full time Assessor. This budget represents a very minimal budget, few program changes, and careful attention to possible savings. The multipage report reflects changes in Town budgets.

Mr. Kreps complimented the First Selectman on his budget and his presentation.

We do need to watch to make sure that the new Senior Center operating cost are what we expect. Mr. Frenaye stated we did save on the rental, but the Center is bigger, and operating cost will need to be monitored.

Budget Review:

Probate – Where will the district be court be located? No decision yet.

Board of Finance – Reduction of cost for annual report - printing

Zoning Board of Appeals – Minor line items changes

Historic District – BoF noted that the Historic District signs still need to be replaced.

Cemeteries – no change

Chairman Donnelly reminded members to attend the Town Meeting, March 2. The Other Post Employment Benefits ordinance adoption is on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling
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