

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Joint Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2010
7:00 PM

On March 10, 2010, the Board of Selectmen held a Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Maksy at 7:00 PM. Selectman present: Selectman Maksy and Selectman Yeatts. Also present: Town Administrator Rita Garbitt and Town Accountant Cindy McRae.

The Finance Committee's Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mansfield. Members present: Gary Mansfield, Mike Petruzzo, Steve Olivier, and Melissa Hopkins. Member Ted Bunn entered the Meeting at 7:12 PM.

Review FY 11 Budget Summary

Town Administrator Garbitt reviewed the information she has received from the schools thus far. The Region has not provided the debt schedules for the school building projects. She has asked Mike Ward, the Director of Business, for them. Laurie Hunter asked to meet with the Board of Selectmen prior to the March 17th School Committee Meeting, so they will be meeting the Selectmen on March 16th. They have asked for an increase of \$239,899.00 in the Local School budget. (Page 73 Budget Worksheet) Chairman Maksy stated that Ms. Yeatts and Ms. Garbitt have been going through the numbers, so they will explain the budget at this time.

Selectman Yeatts stated that the Town has \$519,778.00 to spend. Ms. Garbitt explained that the \$300,000 40R payment from Kensington Court in FY 10 was one time money. The Building Permits for Kensington Court are included in Estimated Receipts for FY 10, but the Occupancy Permits will not be issued until FY 11. The estimate for motor vehicle excise tax is conservative. The State Aid estimated has been changed from a 10% decrease to a 5% decrease. She then reviewed the Cherry Sheet numbers and the Assessments. Ms. Yeatts and Ms. Garbitt reviewed the rest of the revenue numbers.

Ms. Garbitt stated that the Board of Selectmen requested the Department Heads to submit their FY 11 budgets maintaining their personnel and expenses of FY 10 and to include a two (2) percent wage increase for non-union personnel. The Police and Fire have their contractual obligations for FY 11 and any expenses in their Department that they are mandated to pay. The Assessors did restore their employee hours to FY 09 levels. Ms. Yeatts stated that they were the only Department that did not do what they were asked when preparing their budget.

Ms. Garbitt stated that the Local School budget submitted reflected a 5.65% increase. There was a brief discussion regarding the Regional Assessment for Administrative Services for the schools. It is currently split 60% for the Region, 20% for Assawompset Elementary and 20% for Freetown Elementary. They might change it to 80%-10%-10% if the Region agrees. The 60%-20%-20% is part of the original agreement. The minimum net school spending requirement for the Region increased by \$86,678, which is more than what was originally budgeted. The Town is still above the minimum requirement for the Local School. Selectman Maksy stated that he is wondering what it is per student, and if they cannot make it that way, then it is a management issue. Is the Local School getting less per student than the Region? It was noted that, per pupil for the Local is just over \$8,150 per student and for the Region it is \$8,478 per student. That is

the foundation budget per pupil. Selectman Maksy stated that if the current number of the students is used with that amount, then, the School does not have a good argument if they cannot make it. Selectman Yeatts explained that the schools may say that elementary schools need more since it is more labor intensive. Selectman Maksy stated that they are saying that they will lower E&D (Excess & Deficiency) to 2 ½%, but they are not saying they will give it back to the Town. They will use it someplace else.

Ms. Garbitt said Net School Spending did go up \$30,000 at the Local level. The required contribution is \$3,283,000. Mr. Olivier stated that is \$1.2 million over the requirement. Selectman Yeatts stated that the Town has asked them to privatize the janitorial services, since that might help. They said they looked into that and do not want to do it. Selectman Maksy stated that the Region receives transportation money, but the Local does not. Selectman Yeatts stated that she has been talking to them about tying the SPED number into their budget. Discussion then took place on how to fund the school budget including Special Ed costs in order to have them try to make it more efficient. It was the consensus of the Finance Committee that the Special Ed budget should be included in the Local budget. Ms. Garbitt stated that Regional transportation was cut, and they used last years figure for excluded and non excluded debt for the Region since she does not have the debt schedules yet. Special Ed has a \$45,000 deficit for FY 10 right now. It appears the amount budgeted for the Agricultural Schools, Bristol and Norfolk, are under budgeted by approximately \$50,000.

The budgets for the other Departments were reviewed. Ms. Garbitt stated that Selectman Yeatts had her increase the stipends for the Selectman, Assessors and Board of Health back to the FY 08 levels. The Selectmen's budget was reduced by \$300,000 because that was the amount that was transferred to the Selectmen's budget in FY 10 from the Water Infrastructure Stabilization Account for the water tower. The Accountant's budget was cut last year and that short changed her on the audit. An additional audit had to be done because the Town received funds from a Federal grant. Additional modules are needed for the Town network, so that has been included in the budget. Selectman Yeatts stated that the Assessors sent a memo in response to why they did what they did with their budget. They feel that the Town can make the adjustment to other Town budgets to meet the needs. They are an elected board. They are also closed on Wednesdays. They were supposed to be closed only on Fridays like the rest of the Town offices. They are closed to the citizens on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mr. Olivier asked about the raises for the Fire and Police. Were raises included in for them in FY 11? Ms. Garbitt responded that the Fire Union contract has not been negotiated for FY 11. Whatever they are contractually obligated to pay has been included. Mr. Olivier stated that they were given a note that the Unions were going to forego their raise. Mr. Maksy explained that they did for one year. They delayed their raises for FY 10, so the Town only saved for that year. Discussion then took place on the budget figure and how Selectman Yeatts, Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Olivier understood it. They thought the Unions were going to forgo the raise, not postpone it. Mr. Olivier is not comfortable with the raises in the budget for Fire and Police. Those lines will be put on hold.

Ms. Garbitt stated that the Library did receive a waiver for FY 10, but there is a stipulation in the waiver that they will need to increase the budget going forward in order to maintain certification. The required formula was reviewed. Unemployment has been reduced because some of the laid off employees have gotten other jobs. The Debt Schedule was reviewed. Debt Service increased in FY 11 because some of the paydowns for short term debt had been deferred and now they have to be paid in FY 11. Many of the paydowns are final payments. The Local School has

asked for a handicapped SPED van, and the Fire Department needs a new ambulance. Mr. Olivier stated that Debt Service takes away from operational funds, however, there needs to be a level of debt to run the Town, since the Town cannot buy something outright. But then the Town has to pay interest. There needs to be a level that the Town says enough is enough and will not go out to bond anymore.

There was a brief discussion regarding the current and future needs of the Town. The Health Insurance budget reflects a 7% increase. Gateway Health Group will be voting on the actual rate in April. The Region is using a 10% increase. The market trend is 10%. The Town is doing better than market trend. There is no buffer for new enrollees. Under the warrant articles, the largest increase is for the Plymouth County Pension Assessment. Communities are being forced to fund the \$3,000,000 liability for the Retirees of the Sheriff's Department. There was a brief discussion regarding short and long term disability for employees.

The Selectmen and Finance Committee need to meet with the following Departments:

School Department - March 16th-7-9 PM
Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Treasurer/Collector, Town Clerk, Town Accountant
– combine together. Possibly all March 23rd
Library Trustees –Possibly on March 30th
COA/Veterans
Historical Commission – do not need to meet with
Park Commission, Building Commissioner, Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent, Board
of Selectmen

Meetings were tentatively scheduled for March 16th, 23rd and 30th.

At 9:10 PM upon a motion made by Mike Petruzzo and seconded by Melissa Hopkins, the Finance Committee

VOTED: To adjourn their meeting.
Unanimous in favor.

Upon a motion by Selectman Yeatts and with Chairman Maksy stepping down to second and stepping back up to vote, the Board

VOTED: To adjourn their meeting.
Unanimous in favor.