

**Town of Lakeville  
Finance Committee  
Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
7:00 PM – Town Office Building**

On February 7, 2012, the Finance Committee held a Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Town Office Building in Lakeville. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Petruzzo at 7:08 PM. Members present: Michael Petruzzo, Donna Winters, Melissa Hopkins, Norman Orrall, and Ted Bunn. Also present: Christine Weston, Recording Secretary, Rita Garbitt – Town Administrator, Cindy McRae – Town Accountant, and Selectman Scott Belliveau. There was no one recording the meeting this evening.

**Review and discuss information provided at the Budget Work Session of the Transitional Regional School Committee**

Brief discussion took place regarding the recent Budget Work Session meeting. Ms. Garbitt stated that she would like to see the plans and the student enrollments in order to better evaluate some of the information. Ms. Winters will also be trying to look at the budget and make some comparisons.

**Review Board of Selectmen's updated recommended FY13 Budget**

Ms. Garbitt distributed an updated FY13 Maintenance Budget dated 2-7-12. She then went over the Revenue and Expense Summaries. She stated that she added another \$45,000 to the health insurance. She explained how the Tax Levy is figured and the amount used for New Growth is an estimate. The debt exclusions are the Library and Betty's Neck. When that is paid off, the taxpayers' bills will go down. The Regional debt exclusion figure was taken from Saturday's Assessment Sheet, that is for the High School, Middle School and GRAIS. Even if the debt is reduced, it will not help the Town's operating budget, but it will help out the taxpayers. Estimated receipts have been reduced by \$200,000. The State Aid figure is from the Governor's House 2 budget, but the 40S reimbursement has not been included as revenue. The amount should be \$166,497, but until it is included on the Cherry Sheet, it will not be included. Regarding the Earth Removal fees for Ted Williams Camp, a short term borrowing was done, which will get paid off when the fees have been certified as Free Cash. The Town did receive the school van payment of \$23,781. Almost all of that debt got paid off this year.

The current FY 12 Budget deficits were reviewed. The current short fall in Snow and Ice is approximately \$92,000, and Chris Peck, Superintendent of Streets, has some bills he is going to be submitting for sand and salt. The salt shed is full right now. There is then about \$23,000 outstanding. Last night the Selectmen voted to deficit spend Snow and Ice. Last year at this point, the deficit was \$189,000. Last year there was 80 inches of snow, and this year there has only been 8 inches. The Town does not have to worry about a shortfall in Special Education this year.

Regarding the schools FY13 Budget request, the figure that was put in is what they requested as of Saturday, \$9.8 million. The Towns Net School Spending (NSS) increase is \$305,000 and the School Department would like another \$334,000 over that. Non excluded debt is \$48,000. Excluded debt is \$786,647. The minimum NSS amount went up for Old Colony, however, they usually give money back to the communities. Last year \$25,000 was returned. Ms. Garbitt then updated the Committee regarding the status of students at the various vocational schools and how

much the tuitions were increasing. Dana Lucas has indicated that he would like the Assessors stipend to increase. The budget increase for General Government increased \$42,000. The largest increase is for the Town Office/Fire Station Account, which was restored to its FY10 level. It has increased by \$20,000. The second largest increase is for the Conservation Commission; it is up to \$26,300. They are trying to have coverage at least 4 days a week. They also do need supplies. They had about \$14,000 in a trust fund, which is down to about \$4,000 since they are using that money to pay for expenses. They need an operating budget. They are collecting fees, and have instituted other fees that they can collect. Their fees are included in Estimated Receipts; it is not a revolving fund. After meeting with them, they asked to have the Conservation Agent in three (3) hours on Friday. The position would still be non-benefit eligible. With the budget for the Treasurer/Collector, there is currently a \$4,000 deficit due to postage rate increases and legal fees for tax titles. The money that was collected for Tax Title Liens does not go back into that budget. The Assessors put in for the restoration of hours for two (2) employees, increasing their hours from 37 to 40 hours.

Regarding Public Safety, there is an increase, but overtime should decrease. Further information was provided regarding the Fire Department's Budget, the Building Commissioner and the Animal Shelter. There is a \$3,000 increase in the Highway Department budget due to street lighting. When Riverside Drive and Commercial Drive were accepted, this increased the amount needed to pay for the street lights. Also, the Town owns all the poles in the Great Ponds Industrial Park. With Health and Human Services, this is pretty much level funded. The Library budget has been increased by \$7,500 to cover the actual cost for their utilities, since they have been running in a deficit. There is a drop in the net debt service for FY13, and a much larger decline in FY14. With SRPEDD, the Town pays a minimal amount based on its population. With unemployment, \$10,000 is being put in and that is mostly from the school employees and the changes that took place. The Selectmen voted to move to the low option health insurance plan, and a 10% increase was built in for the health insurance budget. Health Insurance is dropping, even though there are more employees, which is good. If no one comes onto the plan, the amount could be reduced by another \$45,000. With the Warrant Articles, Plymouth County Retirement increased \$103,000. The Reserve Fund should have \$100,000, so that was increased. It would be beneficial to put \$100,000 into the Stabilization Fund for Debt Service/Capital Projects.

The CEC (Capital Expenditure Committee) will be meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> to go over the Capital Projects. Then meetings with Department Heads will be scheduled. Meetings should take place with the Fire and Police Chief around the first week of March. The Fire Chief will also be bringing in options for a pumper truck. The opening of bids will take place on Monday to dispose of the older pumper trucks. The Park Department requested \$25,000 for their General Fund subsidy. All Departments would like to get their Department hours back up to 40 hours for their employees. Mr. Peck is looking to hire a mechanic. He has spoken with the Police and Fire Chief about collaborating on this, since they are also sending their oil changes out. They still have to have a supply budget, but could reduce their repair and maintenance budget or contracted services. A mechanic could also do laborer duties. Mechanics usually bring their own tools.

The roof has been repaired on the Fire Station. However, there is major restoration needed with the windows for the Town Office building. The upstairs windows will have to be custom made. They are not energy efficient, and holes have been cut in the windows for air conditioners to fit. Maintenance has been deferred on the Town Office Building/Fire Station for several years due to budget cuts. Originally, the cost was \$23,000 to repair all the trim and the roof for the Town Office

Building/Fire Station. However, the bids came in at \$26,000 just for the roof and clapboard. It will probably be an additional \$10,000 to paint the trim and make repairs to the rest of the building.

For the Special Town Meeting Transfers, the health insurance amount is \$162,000. The Town funded the LEAPS program at Assawompset. The Town Accountant has been closing out everything with the School Department, and there might be about \$40,000 available. The School Department did not allocate the health insurance benefits, though it was part of their budget. It is hoped that there will be something there to offset the \$162,000. Right now the three (3) deficits are: the Legal Fees for the Treasurer, the Snow and Ice, and Health Insurance.

### **Schedule next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM. This will be a joint meeting in Freetown at the COA with their Finance Committee.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bunn; seconded by Mr. Orrall it was:

VOTED:        To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.  
                  Unanimous in favor.