

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

January 7, 2015

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**Meeting Date:** January 7, 2015

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Michael Naughton, Lisa Adams, Lynn Reynolds, Greg Garrison and Sharon Kennaugh

**Selectmen Present:** Mark Fairbrother, Christopher Boutwell and Michael Nelson

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

**Minutes**

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of November 19, 2014.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of November 12, 2014.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

**Affordable Assessment**

The preliminary Affordable Assessment amount is \$8,497,498. This amount includes the debt assessment. Mr. Hanold will provide this information to the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Finance Committee Moved:

To have Mr. Hanold notify the Gill-Montague Regional School District of the preliminary Affordable Assessment.

Vote: 6 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Mr. Fairbrother noted that upcoming large capital costs may impact what the town can afford in future years.

**Fiscal Year 2016 Budgets**

All departmental budget requests have been received except for the request from the Airport Commission.

The Finance Committee and Selectmen agreed to request meetings with the following departments to discuss the Fiscal Year 2016 budget requests: Police/Dispatch, WPCF, DPW, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Legal (including a discussion of town-owned buildings), Assessors (regarding the capital request), Gill-Montague Regional School District, and the Franklin County Technical School.

Specific questions for these, or any other, departments should be sent to Mr. Hanold by Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hanold will then forward all questions to the departments.

Mr. Naughton asked if missing department narratives could be requested by Mr. Abbondanzio.

The Fiscal Year 2016 Budgets include requests for five changes in stipends and payments to inspectors. The changes requested are:

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- The Tree Warden is requesting an increase from \$1,300 to \$1,500
- The Board of Health is requesting to eliminate the stipend for the Burial Agent. This stipend was originally to compensate the Burial Agent for providing Burial Permits to funeral homes after work hours and on weekends. The permits are now available to the funeral homes from a state website. This will save \$670.
- The Board of Health is requesting that the Barn Inspector stipend be increased from \$500 to \$1,000.
- The Computer Administrator is requesting a stipend increase from \$2,000 to \$3,500.
- The Building Inspector is requesting that the stipends for all part-time Inspectors (building, gas, plumbing and electrical) be increase from \$27.06 per inspection to \$27.50 per inspection. This stipend was last increased in Fiscal Year 2008.

**Next Meeting-** January 14, 2015

**Items not anticipated within 48 hours-**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits**

- Minutes November 19, 2014
- Draft Schedules I and II for Fiscal Year 2016