Finance Committee Minutes, April 18, 2014

Call to order at 11:01 by Dennis May

Dennis moved we approve the minutes of Feb 18, 2014.
Second by Maggie
Unanimous

Reserve fund transfer. Chap 40 sec 6. Mr. Taylor requests $294.18 for DPW oil heating oil bill.
From Reserve Fund to Account #001325400
Dennis moved
Wayne second
Unanimously approved

Budget and Warrant discussion

Marilyn Wilson (BOS chair) presented the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget summary. This sheet was prepared by Joe Boudreau, Rowe's MDOR representative.
Under Section C. Available Funds:

$96,847 in free cash appropriated to reduce the tax rate (C1). More than last year, less than previous years. Average $120,000.

$31,355 Stabilization fund Appropriated (C2) Wayne noted this is significantly less than last two year. Marilyn confirmed.

$95,792 Other Funds Available (from Capital Stabilization Fund)

Total Revenue and Available Funds = $3,882,528.

Dennis inquired when is tax rate normally set. Marilyn responded, "usually November." She also noted that under Revenues from Taxation, some of it is a guess until MDOR gives us actual numbers (i.e. New Growth). A1 and A3 and A6 are hard numbers. A4 won't be given to us until July.

B2 (local receipts not estimated) $53,000 is last year's number. We won't have a hard number until later. This number fluctuates. Marilyn estimated conservatively. Cherry sheet offsets could also change.

Marilyn chose not to put in new growth estimate at this time. This is a buffer against the estimates in B1 &B2. We have 2015 figures from the state for the Cherry Sheet, however, this number could change in June if the state changes its budget. If those figures are reduced, (and we will have new growth,) not including new growth at this time serves as a buffer for any changes in B1 or B2. Cherry Sheet form comes from MDOR. As of Tuesday, April 18, this number held.

Marilyn reports that as of Friday, there is $130,532 in free cash. After taking out for winter road maintenance and free cash used to reduce the tax rate, we will have approximately $10,000 in free cash remaining.

We then turn to the **budget review**:

The budget is constructed from line items presented by the various boards and committees. Most cuts come from general admin and highway admin. A choice made by Marilyn to take any cuts from line items rather than to take cuts from free cash.

Much review and discussion transpired clarifying the figures that are on the budget handout.

Art 1 & 2: Do not need finance committee recommendation.

Art 3: To approve $366,101 for General government from taxation. Wayne moved. Dennis seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 4: To raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 to be used as Reserve Fund....Wayne moved. Dennis seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 5: To raise and appropriate $585,422 for the Department of Public Works and Facilities. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

[Q: Marilyn: does finance committee recommend board of selectman negotiate with Charlemont BOS to contract care of winter roads. Dennis noted, no money exchanged. Therefore, it does not need recommendation from Finance Committee. Maggie notes it doesn't need to be on warrant, this is a select board decision.]

Art 6: To appropriate from available funds $146,386 for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90. Wayne moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 7: To raise and appropriate for Public Safety $112,003. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 8: To raise and appropriate to the Stabilization Fund $3,000 for future ambulance services. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Discussion: If we have taken money out of CSF for trucks why are we not taking money out of CSF for ambulance? This is for services, not trucks. Unanimously approved.

Art 9: To raise and appropriate $130,867 for Public Health and Sanitation. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 10, 11, 12: Revolving Accounts for Board of Health ($5,000), Board of Health ($3,500), and Board of Health ($1000). Dennis moved approval. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 13: To raise and appropriate $1,454,600 for Public Schools. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 14: To authorize the School Committee to use a revolving fund with a limit of $10,000 for school program fees. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 15: To raise and appropriate $66,092 for the Rowe Town Library. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 16: To raise and appropriate $105,825 for Pelham Lake Park. Dennis moved Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 17: To raise and appropriate $6,500 for Culture and Recreation. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 18: To raise and appropriate $11,500 for Old Home Day. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 19: To establish a revolving account with a $5,000 limit for Old Home Day. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 20: To raise and appropriate $564,098 for Pension and Insurance. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 21: To appropriate $96,847 from Free Cash to reduce the FY 2015tax rate. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 22: To establish a revolving account for purposes of receiving and spending money received through grants or contributions for use in constructing, equipping or furnishing the new Rowe Elementary School. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 23: To appropriate from the Stabilization Fund, $31,345 for Police, Board of Health, Fire, and Gen Admin. Dennis moved. Maggie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Art 24: To appropriate from Capital Stabilization Fund $95,922 for DPW, Park and Park. Dennis moved. Wayne seconded. Unanimously approved.

General discussion held regarding the Finance Committee active role in budget preparation for FY 2016.

Dennis moved adjournment @ 1:06 pm.
Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Zavotka

Dennis May, Dennis May, Chair May 8, 2014