

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
FIRE STATION
37 STATE ROAD
GREAT BARRINGTON MA 01230
JUNE 14, 2016
5:00 PM**

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:01. Present were members Walter Atwood, Thomas Blauvelt, and Janet Lee. Also present was town manager Jennifer Tabakin.

Minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2016 were approved unanimously (on motion by Atwood, seconded by Blauvelt).

FY2016 RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS: The Town Manager asked the Committee to authorize four transfers from the reserve fund, which has so far not been tapped this year; the balance in the reserve fund is \$100,000. The chair noted that pursuant to MGL Ch. 40 Sec. 6, transfers from the reserve fund are permitted, with the authorization of the finance committee, "to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures".

For legal bills, an addition \$12,000 was requested. Spending on this item so far in the fiscal year has totalled \$51,799, nearly equal to the revised budget amount of \$52,000. Additional, unanticipated legal work has been required for the special town meeting, potential litigation about the Housatonic Water Works, an employee issue, and the library's hearing about a patron. On motion by Blauvelt, seconded by Lee, the committee authorized by unanimous vote the transfer of \$12,000 from the reserve fund to pay for unanticipated legal expenses.

For travel and training, \$5000 was requested to cover training for three people who came on board this year: the new animal control agent, a new police officer, and the new health agent. The budget for this is \$33,000. On motion by Atwood, seconded by Blauvelt, the committee authorized by unanimous vote the transfer of \$5,000 from the reserve fund to pay for unanticipated training expenses.

For parks and recreation, \$5,460 was requested for the allocation to Berkshire South Regional Community Center for its summer programming, which provides lifeguards at Lake Mansfield, a counsellor at the skate park, and two counsellors at the park in Housatonic. The summer season will be one week longer than the budget had assumed, because of the lack of snow days this winter. The Parks Commission considered reducing the program offering, but the Town Manager advised that they should sustain the level of service that they had promised to the town meeting. On motion by Atwood, seconded by Blauvelt, the committee authorized by unanimous vote the transfer of \$5,460 from the reserve fund to pay for unanticipated parks and recreation expenses.

For the office of the treasurer-collector, the town manager reported that there would be a shortage in the salary line, due to changes in that office over the year: the retirement of the previous treasurer, an increase in hours for the assistant in the interim, and hiring a new person in 2016. The shortfall is about eight percent of the budget line: the spending report shows that this line is 95 percent expended, when by the calendar it should be 88.5 percent expended. There may be a surplus in the office equipment line for this office there that could be transferred to salary. The town manager requested a reserve transfer to be sure the salary could be paid; if the total amount of the transfer is not needed, it would roll over into free cash. On motion by Atwood, seconded by Lee, the committee authorized by

unanimous vote the transfer of up to \$7,000 from the reserve fund as needed to pay for unanticipated salary expenses in the office of the treasurer-collector.

The town manager advised the committee that there are likely to be significant "new growth" additions to the tax base for the upcoming fiscal year.

CITIZENS SPEAK TIME: There were no citizens in attendance to speak.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 5:40. The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Wise". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Wise, Chair