

DENNIS FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013
DENNIS POLICE STATION
TOM MARTIN HEARING ROOM 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Plath, Members William Crowell, Robert Prall, Rachel Baroni, Pat Stone and Jay Murphy

STAFF: Assistant Town Administrator Sandy Fife

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

SHELLFISH MITIGATION FUND TRANSFER

Karen Johnson, Director of Natural Resources was present. Ms. Johnson gave an explanation for the transfer: a transfer of \$1600.00 from the Shellfish Mitigation Fund for purposes of planting seed at Chapin Beach and Follins Pond/Bass River.

A discussion of the shellfish seed program took place.

MOTION

Mr. Murphy moved to recommend appropriating and transferring \$1600.00 from the Shellfish Mitigation Fund.

Mr. Crowell seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

SUPPLEMENTS FY 2013

Ms. Fife stated there are several supplemental requests. There are a few Department Heads present to discuss the proposed supplements.

Police Chief Michael Whalen was present. Mr. Plath read the proposed Article 8, a transfer of available funds to the Police Department Operating Budget for \$50,000.00 to Personnel Services, \$15,000.00 to Purchase of Services and \$10,000.00 to Supplies for a total of \$75,000.00.

Chief Whalen explained the balances that are in the operating budget and the reason for the supplemental requests.

Mr. Murphy asked if these monies were already transferred. Mr. Plath explained these monies were put into the Operating budget for 2014, however, there is a request to supplement the fiscal year 2013 operating budget.

Approved May 7, 2013

Mr. Plath stated though there is a general consensus of approval, the Committee will refrain from taking a vote until the entire article is reviewed.

Fire Chief Mark Dellner was present and explained the request for a supplement to the Fire Department operating budget in the amount of \$40,000.00 for Personnel Services-Overtime, and \$356,376.00 for Personnel Services. Chief Dellner explained the reasons behind the request to supplement the overtime budget due to long term injuries of full-time staff. Mr. Dellner explained the reasons for the supplemental request for \$356,376.00 for four full-time paramedics' salaries, benefits and equipment. Mr. Dellner also explained there is a ballot question for this May's election requesting the resident's to fund these positions for next fiscal year.

Mr. Plath explained this money never hit the tax rate for an assessment this year. If the voters accept the ballot question, the additional \$356,376.00 will hit the tax rate next year, of which will be on the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Mr. Plath read through the remaining supplemental requests.

Ms. Fife stated she is seeking a supplement for fuel as based on usages; we will fall short by approximately \$15,000.00.

Ms. Fife explained the reason for the supplemental request for Tax Title Foreclosure. The previous Town Treasurer/Collector was working with an attorney to move forward with parcel research. A report has been submitted. There are 171 parcels that need a lien. A request to transfer \$25,000.00 to the Tax Title Foreclosure Purchase of Services Line Item has been made.

A discussion of the request took place. Mr. Murphy stated the statutory time frame for proceeding on liens is a short time-frame.

Ms. Fife added the new Town Treasurer/Collector has put a process together to help catch up on these issues.

Ms. Fife explained the Snow and Ice supplemental request of. The DPW Superintendent has not submitted a memorandum, nor was he present this evening. Ms. Fife explained the breakdown of funds, stating Town Accountant MaryAnne Gibbs has placed the funds in different line items based on percentages.

Mr. Plath stated he would like a memorandum from the DPW Superintendent showing the breakdown of the funds.

Ms. Fife explained the Veteran's Benefits supplemental request of \$34,500.00. Ed Merrigan has given an estimate of what funds he will need to get through June 30th, citing specific costs. Mr. Plath stated that 75% of these costs are reimbursable.

Ms. Fife explained the Fringe Benefits/Unemployment supplemental request of \$30,000.00. This line item has been supplemented for the past three years. The main expense comes from Golf Employees unemployment. Ms. Fife stated she still has four months to pay.

Mr. Plath stated there is a general satisfaction from those Department Heads that were heard from, however, would like additional information regarding the Snow and Ice supplemental requests. Mr. Plath recommended refraining from taking a vote until next meeting, where the information could be submitted for review.

A brief discussion regarding FEMA and snow and ice reimbursements took place.

PLANNING BY LAW AMENDMENT- HEIGHT DEFINITION

Dan Fortier, Town Planner, was present and explained the proposed article. Mr. Plath read the Article. The Zoning By-Law Committee has been working on this over the last several years.

A discussion took place regarding grade, fill and height of dwellings.

Henry Kelley was present and stated he is a member of the Zoning By-law Study Group. Mr. Kelley explained the goals of the committee.

A discussion of the proposed bylaw took place.

MOTION

Mr. Prall moved to recommend the Article Planning By-Law Amendment: Height Definition as printed.

Ms. Baroni seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

CREATE MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY BY-LAW

Dan Fortier explained the history and events leading to this proposed bylaw. Every community in the Commonwealth must make room for a dispensary site by law. Mr. Fortier stated the plan for Dennis would be to have these dispensary sites zoned as industrial. The facilities would be no less than 2500 square feet to no more than 20,000 square feet. Mr. Fortier explained how the dispensary sites would operate.

The Commonwealth stated these cannot be prohibited.

A lengthy discussion of the proposed by-law took place.

Mr. Plath read passages of the proposed bylaw.

A discussion regarding the Police Chief Associate's recommendations took place. Mr. Prall stated having a dispensary site would not prohibit people from growing marijuana at home. Mr. Fortier stated if a dispensary site is within a reasonable location, patients would not receive a

prescription to grow seeds. Mr. Fortier stated there are three areas that are being looked at for sites, including the areas near Falmouth and Cape Cod Hospital and somewhere on the outer cape.

Mr. Plath stated there was some value in adopting this by-law. At least the law offers the Town some upfront protection.

MOTION

Mr. Prall moved to recommend the Article Create Medical Marijuana Dispensary By-Law as printed.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

COA REVOLVING FUND

Ms. Fife explained Department Head Jacqui Beebe has submitted a report of revenue and expenses.

MOTION

Mr. Crowell moved to recommend the Council on Aging Programs Revolving Fund as printed.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

BOARD OF HEALTH REVOLVING FUND

Ms. Fife explained the Committee has received a second memorandum regarding the fund from Terry Hayes, Health Director. This is a proposed \$20,000.00 authorization.

A discussion of the revenue and expenses took place.

MOTION

Mr. Murphy moved to recommend the Board of Health Revolving Fund as printed.

Ms. Baroni seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

MA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ms. Fife explained the proposed article.

MOTION

Ms. Baroni moved to recommend the Article MA Department of Environmental Management as printed.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

SOLAR FARM REC (RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS)

Ms. Fife explained the Board of Selectmen voted to place the Article in the Warrant, however, they will possibly recommend an indefinite postponement as there have been no figures submitted.

Mr. Plath recommended refraining from a vote until Town Meeting.

FEES- ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, CEMETERY & TAXI

Mr. Plath read the proposed Article for Electrical Permits. Ms. Fife read the memorandum from Building Commissioner Brian Florence. This is an attempt to establish an Institutional Maintenance Permit for larger institutions in town.

The Committee had several questions regarding the bylaw. Ms. Fife recommended the Committee refrain from taking a vote, so that Commissioner Florence could address the Committee directly at the next meeting.

No Action was taken.

Mr. Plath read the proposed Plumbing Fee article. Mr. Plath stated this is an existing fee, but a proposed increase. Mr. Plath recommended refraining from taking a vote until next meeting, where the Building Commissioner could answer some questions.

Mr. Plath read proposed article regarding the Cemetery fee. Ms. Fife stated a lot sold and there was a request to bury to cremated people in one lot. There was no fee established for this request.

MOTION

Mr. Murphy moved to recommend the Article License Fee for Cremation Burial Rights for Two as printed.

Mr. Prall seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

Ms. Fife explained the proposed article regarding Taxi Regulation Fees stating the Board of Selectmen has adopted new regulations with several new fees.

A discussion of the proposed fees took place.

MOTION

Ms. Stone moved to recommend the Article Taxi Regulation Fees as printed.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

RINSE TOWERS

Mr. Plath read the proposed Article- Rinse Towers.

Ms. Fife explained the request, as it is similar to last year's request for Rinse Towers. Mr. Plath stated \$7,000.00 would be appropriated from the Beach Capital Improvement Fund.

A discussion of the proposed rinse towers took place.

MOTION

Mr. Crowell moved to recommend the Article Rinse Towers as printed.

Mr. Prall seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

WATER DISTRICT EASEMENT

Ms. Fife stated she has submitted a memorandum from Water District Superintendent David Larkowski. Ms. Fife read the memorandum.

MOTION

Mr. Murphy moved to recommend the Article Water District Easement as printed.

Mr. Prall seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

2014 Budget Finalize

Ms. Fife stated after final review of all budgets, the total Operating Budget is \$29,717,471.00. Ms. Fife stated there were nineteen changes made. Mr. Plath asked the list of changes be emailed to him prior to Town Meeting.

MOTION

Ms. Baroni moved to recommend:

Recommend to raise and appropriate \$27,254,146 for the article.

Recommend to transfer \$140,000 from Overlay Reserve to Finance Committee Reserve Fund, Line Item #8A.

Recommend to transfer \$53,184 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Town Administrator Personal Services, Line Item #3.

Recommend to transfer \$8,250 from Cable Special Revenue Fund to Legal, Purchase of Services, Line Item #28.

Recommend to transfer \$1,716 from Cable Special Revenue Fund to Central Purchasing Purchase of Services, Line Item #13.

Recommend to transfer \$6,000 from Waterways Maintenance & Improvement Fund to Central Purchasing Supplies, Line Item #14.

Recommend to transfer \$20,110 from Cable Special Revenue Fund to Central Purchasing Supplies, Line Item #14.

Recommend to transfer \$128,815 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Information Tech & Data Management Personal Services, Line Item #30.

Recommend to transfer \$10,500 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Information Tech & Data Management Purchase of Services, Line Item #31.

Recommend to transfer \$4,992 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Public Property/Buildings, Personal Services, Line Item #50.

Recommend to transfer \$10,401 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Property/Liability Insurance, Other Charges – Expenditures, Line Item #55.

Recommend to transfer \$1,075,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserve for Appropriations Account to Fire Dept. Personal Services, Line Item #62.

Recommend to transfer \$50,000 from Waterways Maintenance & Improvement Fund to Harbormaster Capital Outlay, Line Item #78.

Recommend to transfer \$35,000 from Cemetery Lots Sales Account to Dept. of Public Works, Personal Services, Line Item #84.

Recommend to transfer \$1,000 from the Bass River Receipts Reserved Account to Beach Purchase of Service Line Item #130.

Recommend to transfer \$845 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Fringe Benefits, Workers' Comp., Line Item #151.

Recommend to transfer \$1,205 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Fringe Benefits, Unemployment Insurance, Line Item #152.

Recommend to transfer \$14,139 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Fringe Benefits, Retirement Contribution, Line Item #153.

Recommend to transfer \$24,288 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Fringe Benefits, Group Insurance, Line Item #154.

Recommend to transfer \$1,555 from the Cable Special Revenue Fund to Fringe Benefits, Medicare Tax, Line Item #155.

Recommend to transfer \$675,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to Retirement of Debt Principal, Line Item #147.

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Recommend to transfer \$19,525 from the Septic Loan Program Account to Retirement of Debt Principal, Line Item #147.

Recommend to transfer \$181,800 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to Long Term Debt – Interest, Line Item #148, and any unexpended transfer be returned to the Community Preservation Act Fund.

Making a total of \$29,717,471.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

A discussion of upcoming meetings took place and the agendas.

MOTION

Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn.

Mr. Prall seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.