

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting: May 15, 2009, Friday, Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Norma Lynch.

Attending: Norma Lynch, Richard Filoramo, Theodore Willard, William Coli, Camille White, Selectman Winston Healy.

1. Minutes – Minutes of previous meetings were approved and signed.
2. Board of Selectmen Meeting -- N. Lynch reported on Finance Committee meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding maintaining records for fuel usage by gallons and department; state gas tax reimbursement; borrowing for the ambulance; and carry-forward items in the budget.
3. Carry-Forward Items – After discussion of carry-forward items in the budget which were clarified by the Department of Revenue, it was
 - a. VOTED to remove line item #5, Auditor's Services \$6,000, in the budget and submit a warrant article for this amount;
 - b. VOTED to remove line item #50, Assessor's Revaluation \$6,355, in the budget and submit a warrant article for this amount;
 - c. VOTED to remove line item #54, Tax Title Taking \$1,500, in the budget and submit a warrant article for this amount.

N. Lynch will inform the Treasurer and the Assessors.
4. Other Carry Forwards – Similar items in the budget need to be researched before they can be closed to free cash and will be addressed this summer.
5. Treasurer's Memo – Discussed Treasurer's information regarding interest rates and going forward with borrowing money for the ambulance.
6. Fuel Line Items – Discussed and agreed on amounts.
7. Article Recommendations – Discussed Finance Committee recommendations but will continue deliberations at our next meeting.
8. Further Budget Work –
 - a. Library -- After receiving information from Library Director Bambi Miller that the State Library Commissioners were waiving for one year certain requirements regarding funding, it was agreed that the Library budget could be level-funded.
 - b. Tech School – Following discussion, it was agreed that R. Filoramo would contact the Superintendent of Franklin County Technical School regarding a 5-year rolling average figure.

- c. Raises – Discussed the uncertainties of revenue receipts and agreed that the Finance Committee is unable to make a recommendation for raises at this time. It was VOTED that N. Lynch would send a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating that the Finance Committee would reassess the Town's financial situation no later than March 31, 2010 and would consider raises retroactive to July 1, 2009 if finances deemed it reasonable. The Finance Committee would inform Annual Town Meeting so any such action would not be out of line at a special town meeting.

9. Other Business --

- a. It was agreed N. Lynch would submit 2 warrant articles to raise and appropriate for the FY2010 Audit Fund and the FY2010 Assessor's Revaluation Fund as voted in Item #3 above. N. Lynch would also submit two warrant articles to transfer a sum from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) to the Stabilization Fund and to transfer a sum from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) for the purpose of reducing the tax levy for FY2010.
- b. The removal of Line Item 54 in the budget will be addressed before the end of this fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

Respectfully,

Camille C. White, Recording Secretary

(This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Finance Committee.)