

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009

1. Review Minutes of 4/6/09

The minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting were reviewed. No changes or corrections were made

2. Review and approve Warrants

Warrants were reviewed by the Committee and signed after member questions were answered by the Town Manager related to monies paid to former Public Works Director Greg Nash. He still does inspection work for the town on development projects.

3. Old Business

- a. Tax Rebate Program – on hold pending budget
- b. Social Services Request – Review of Hermon Policy – The Committee looked over the policy that Hermon uses for its annual budget preparation. It does not address the Council desire for a policy to cover during-the-year requests from school and other groups so the Town Manager was asked to look at additions or modifications to it that might address those concerns as well.

4. New Business

- a. Hamlin Marine Project – funds for survey – Committee members discussed their overall support for the idea of a significant green space in that area but also expressed the need for some kind of basic agreement that would cover shared responsibility between Hamlin Marine and the Town for costs of the necessary surveys, and also the 'ground rules' for the potential land exchange.

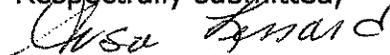
Councilors Cushing, Lawlis, Hughes and Brann were asked to work with the Economic Development Specialist to come up with a draft memorandum of understanding related to the land swap idea for review prior to dedicating funds for surveys.

- b. Public Works Equipment – Infrastructure Committee request to consider reserve funding levels – The Committee determined that it would review Public Works reserve funding at the same time that it reviewed all reserve funds for the 2009/2010 budget. Motion by William Shakespeare, seconded by Janet Hughes to allow the Public Works Director to go out for bid for a public works truck this Spring so that the truck could be delivered prior to the winter season. Vote 5-0. This will prevent the need to expend further repair funds on the 1998 Sterling that the new truck will replace.

- c. Fees Ordinance Change Request – Town Clerk – The Committee discussed the request of the Clerk to raise fees for Victualer and Liquor licenses due to the increased cost of advertising for those licenses that require a public hearing. Motion by Janet Hughes, seconded by Andre Cushing to recommend an increase in fees for victualer and liquor licenses and to have Planning and Development review the current Fees ordinance for all departments. Vote 5-0.
  - d. Budget Hearing Schedule Review – The Committee reviewed the budget meeting schedule proposed by the Town Manager. There were no objections to the schedule presented, which will go to the full council for approval at the 5/4/09 meeting.
5. Public Comments - None
6. Committee Member Comments – Councilor Shakespeare asked about the rate per hour for the Town Attorney and whether his presence was necessary at every Council meeting. The Town Manager provided information on the reduced fee charge by our attorney and the number of meetings a year in which the attorney has a direct role in providing information. It was the consensus of the Committee that it was working well but the Town Manager was asked to talk with the Town Attorney about whether he felt it was useful to be at each Council meeting.

Councilor Brann expressed concern over the current committee structure. He indicated that he felt that some committees were overstepping their authority by considering financial implications of proposals – that the Finance Committee should be the one doing that type of assessment. He also indicated that he felt that all proposals that are heard by a Committee, not just the ones referred to them by the Town Council, should be reported back to the full council. There was considerable discussion on this subject, but it was shortened by the need to end the meeting due to the start of the regular Council meeting. The subject will be discussed further at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Lessard  
Town Manager