

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Monday, August 17, 2009

Attending:

Mayor Matthew Arnett  
Councilor William Shakespeare  
Councilor Thomas Brann  
Councilor Janet Hughes  
Councilor Andre Cushing  
Sue Lessard, Town Manager

The meeting was opened at 5:45 by Mayor Arnett

1. The minutes of the August 3, 2009 Finance Committee meeting were reviewed. No changes or corrections were made and the Mayor declared them accepted.
2. The warrants were reviewed and signed by Mayor Arnett and Councilor Shakespeare.
3. Old Business
  - a. The Committee discussed the long-term resident tax rebate proposal that had been tabled pending information related to the tax commitment for 2010. The Town Manager provided information that showed that the overlay for the 2010 commitment would be just over \$46,000, which is less than 1% of the total commitment. The cost of a \$10,000 valuation credit on the 300 over-65 eligible residents would total \$47,700.

Committee members discussed their concerns over the implementation of such a program at this time. Mayor Arnett cited the issue of competing needs for funding, Councilor Shakespeare cited concerns over the timing of it since the employees had given up cost of living increases in this year, Councilor Cushing was concerned over the potential to divide the community by creating 'classes' of eligibility, Councilor Hughes had reservations about singling out one group over another since the economy is putting stress on everyone. Despite these reservations, however, there was consensus that this idea should remain active for future consideration. Councilor Brann – who originated the idea for the proposal – was concerned about postponing it another year but agreed that in this environment, we need to make sure that if we do start it at some point, it can remain active

and ongoing. Motion by William Shakespeare, seconded by Andre Cushing to postpone further discussion on this issue until budget preparation for the 2010-2011 budget. Vote 5 – 0.

4. New Business

- a. Councilor Cushing suggested that the Council hold a strategic planning session prior to the next budget. After the seating of Councilors in January of 2010 was identified as an appropriate time frame.
- b. The Town Manager announced that the Assessor would be retiring at the end of December of 2009 and that advertisements would be placed soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard  
Town Manager