

## **Town of Rockport**

### **Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting February 21, 2013**

The committee convened at 7:00 pm in the Library and adjourned at 8:4 pm. Chairman Michael Hughes presided; Frank Hassler, Wally Hess, Michael Lamoureux, June Michaels, Bill Wagner and Laurene Wessel attended. Also attending were School Superintendent Rob Liebow, Town Clerk Pat Brown and IS&T Director Monty Hitschler

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup> were discussed and approved.

#### **Reserve Requests**

The committee considered a reserve request for \$25,000 for additional Unemployment Insurance expenses. Frank Hassler determined that, of this amount, \$20,000 was attributable to school employees. Upon discussion with Rob Liebow and the School Committee, they determined that the \$20,000 could be paid from school reserves. Therefore, the reserve request was reduced to \$5,000. Frank Hassler moved, Wally Hess seconded, and the committee voted to approve this revised amount for \$5,000, subject to the ability of the Schools to transfer their portion to the Town. Should this prove unfeasible, the full amount of \$25,000 would be paid from the FinCom reserve.

#### **FY2014 General Government Budget**

Monty Hitschler explained the IT&S budget reconciling how the prior year funding in the school budget was incorporated with the Town budget for IT to form the FY14 requested budget. In particular, it appeared that several positions were being requested for increases more than guideline; however, Monty explained how the new budget reflected the current personnel as opposed to the previous year's figures. Monty Hitschler acknowledged that the Administrator position would not be needed given that the GIS Manager position was to be incorporated into the DPW. The committee voted to approve the budget, as reduced by the administrator position, subject to overall consideration of the total town resources to fund the requests.

The remainder of the General Government departments were discussed and found to be within guidelines, with the exception of the Personnel Board request for additional monies for the Merit Pool (or Bonus) increases. Approval for this amount of \$35,000 was deferred to a later meeting. The balance of the General Government was voted and approved, subject to overall Town resources.

#### **Town Clerk Salary Request for Town Meeting**

The Town Clerk has proposed a warrant for Town Meeting to increase the salary to \$65,000 from \$52,895. It was explained that the salary must be approved at Town Meeting because the position is an elected one and is reportable only to the electorate. Pat Brown introduced data to support this increase: 1) showing salaries for comparable towns on the North Shore; 2) the position has been level funded since FY10, while other departments have had increases of 1-5% annually. Mike Hughes also presented salary survey data from towns for FY09 showing that Rockport was close to the average. The committee decided to defer recommendations to a later

meeting.

### **FY2014 Public Safety Budget**

The public safety departmental budgets were discussed. It was noted that the Lifeguard budget is substantially above FY13, but this is at the request of the Selectmen to increase the hours of coverage at the town beaches. Overall the budgets were determined to be reasonable and it was voted to recommend these, subject to overall Town resources.

### **New Business**

The first draft of the STM and ATM warrants were distributed. For those that require Finance Committee consideration or approval, responsibilities were assigned for determining the Committee's position. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Monday, February 25, 7:00 pm, Library - Capital Outlay, DPW and Enterprise Fund budgets

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 pm, School Committee meeting with Representative Ferrante and Senator Tarr

Monday March 4, 7:00 pm, Library- Revenue and balancing FY2014 budget

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Room A - meet with Board of Selectmen