

Town of Rockport Finance Committee  
Minutes of February 18, 2014 Meeting

Chairman Wally Hess called the meeting to order at the Annex at 7pm. Present at the meeting were Wally Hess, Mike Hughes, Carl Engel, Laurene Wessel, Bill Wagner, Mike Lamoureux and June Michaels and Frank Hassler.

The minutes of February 10<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved.

We discussed the Police Department budget with Chief McCarthy and Linda Sanders. We expect to make some changes to both labor and operation expense, and the specifics will await a report from Linda on several items that we requested. We also expect not to recommend funding the solar powered speed limit sign for \$25,000, as the Chief said that it was not important this year. We discussed extending the life of the cruiser due for replacement this year, but have not yet decided. We also discussed the idea of adding some meters and kiosks in order to add revenue. There appears to be as much as \$240,000 of additional revenue available, if the selectmen were to decide to go after all opportunities, some of which are likely to be unpopular.

We discussed the IS&T Department with Monty Hirschler and Linda Sanders. This department is assuming financial and operational control of the town's land line telephones and copiers. Linda will revert with a schedule of expenses by department so we can make the proper reductions in department expenses along with increases in IS&T. Several other expense items were discussed, and reports from Monty and Linda should be available for the next meeting.

We discussed the use of the balances of several reserve fund accounts as revenue for the budget. Each of these has a special purpose, and some of them appear to be over-funded relative to their potential uses. We concluded that we should take the balance of the parking meter reserve into revenue since the town is funding many expenses that could be the responsibility of this reserve. We will study the Waterways Fund the same way, and discuss it next week. The other funds mentioned for use are Sale of Cemetery Lots Fund, and two Insurance Reserve Funds. Frank will study additional funds to be discussed.

Next meeting was scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Library.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.