

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

January 8, 2014

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**Meeting Date:** January 8, 2014

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Michael Naughton, Sharon Kennaugh, Greg Garrison and Lisa Adams. Lynn Reynolds was absent.

**Selectmen Present:** Michael Nelson, Christopher Boutwell and Mark Fairbrother.

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

**Minutes**

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of December 11, 2013.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of December 11, 2013.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

**Review Budget Requests**

Ms. Olsen noted that she hopes to have final changes to requests for next week's meeting, including requested budget for Board of Health, Airport and Board of Assessors, as well as updated special articles and Benefits budgets.

Mr. Hanold noted that the budget requests include requests for new positions in the Police budget (to be reimbursed by the Franklin County Technical School), Library, and Water Pollution Control Facility.

**Preliminary Affordable Assessment Calculation**

The preliminary revenue estimates show that the 48.5% allocation of revenues to the Gill-Montague Regional School District indicates an Affordable Assessment of \$8,245,681, which is a 3.52% increase from the current year's assessment.

Mr. Hanold will notify the Superintendent and School Committee, as well as the Gill Finance Committee, of this preliminary amount.

Mr. Hanold asked if there was any interest in changing this formula.

Mr. Naughton thinks that at some point we should put the question of whether this number is still affordable on the table.

Mr. Hanold reminded everyone that we previously discussed changing the revenue allocation split from Town/Gill-Montague Regional School District to Town/Education, including the Franklin County Technical School in the education allocation.

Mr. Naughton summarized how the affordable assessment works. On the district side, the total budget is reduced by all non-assessment revenues, and the remaining amount is funded by the towns. The town assessments include the minimum contribution, as determined by the state, plus any additional amounts needed to provide the amount required.

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**General**

Mr. Hanold reminded members to send any questions about the department budgets to Mr. Abbondanzio.

**Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements** None

The Capital Improvements Committee met to receive all of the requested capital requests for Fiscal Year 2015.

There will be a Special Town Meeting at 7:00 PM on January 30<sup>th</sup> in the Turners Fall High School Theater. Articles will include an article on medical marijuana, revisiting the Cumberland Farms building as a demolition project, providing accessible bathrooms at the Unity Park Field House, a \$20,000 supplemental appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2015 Police Budget and an additional \$5,000 for legal fees for the Cable Advisory Committee.

**Next Meetings:**

January 15, 2014	Review Special Articles for Jan 30, 2014 STM, Review Capital Articles submitted, decide which departments to meet with
January 22, 2014	Initial Schedules I and II, discuss/decide use of reserves
January 29, 2014	First department budget meetings

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits**

- Minutes December 11, 2013
- Affordable Assessment Calculation Detail