



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

February 21, 2024

Minutes

Call to Order

At 6:00pm Carl Pike opened the Finance Committee Meeting in Room 203 at the Kingston Town House. Also present were members Michael Cowett, Elaine Fiore, and Jason Viveiros. Derek Billnitzer, David Fuller, and Debra Moran were absent. Town Administrator Keith Hickey was present and Finance Director Carol McCoy attended via zoom.

Public Comments

None

Other Items as Needed

Revote Solid Waste budget due to \$9500 reduction in the overtime line for brush chipping, per Board of Selectmen.

Solid Waste \$267,906 for personal services + \$544,025 for expenses = \$811,931

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Elaine Fiore

Vote: 4-0-0



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FY25 Departmental Budget Reviews

Fire Chief Mark Douglass was present to answer questions. Number of employees are 27 including 4 new firefighters approved last year. Carl stated FY25 budget request is 5% above FY24 budget, and FY24 budget was 19% above FY23 budget. That's a 25% increase between FY23 and FY25. The town needs development to produce revenue to offset the budget increases. Mark stated the cost for the 4 new firefighters is approximately \$450,000. The additional increases are due to call firefighters and union contracts. Recall, holiday, and sick pay should decrease due to the 4 new firefighters. Carl stated that the Finance Committee may recommend budget cuts in ALL town departments depending on what the school budgets come in at.

Fire \$3,452,030 for personal services + \$497,983 for expenses = \$3,950,013

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Elaine Fiore

Vote: 4-0-0

Animal Control Officer Joanna Boudreau was present to answer questions. Joanna expressed her concerns for the department and budget. Both she and her assistant only work part time and need more hours to fulfill the duties of the job. The vehicle repair line was cut in half last year and the vehicles handed down to them are not adequate for their needs. The Town Administrator stated this meeting was for the Finance Committee to vote on the budget recommended by himself and the Board of Selectmen. Joanna stated that she was not included in the budget process and the salary for her assistant is too low in comparison with that of most town admins, and the duties are more extensive. Elaine thoughtfully suggested that she should discuss a business plan with the new Police Chief.

Animal Control \$105,426 for personal services + \$8445 for expenses = \$113,871

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Jason Viveiros

Vote: 4-0-0



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Harbormaster Admin. Adeine Silvia was present to answer questions. 7 employees are comprised of the Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster who work a half year, 4 assistants and one admin. Noting that tires cost \$250 each, Adeine asked to have \$1250 added back into the vehicle repair line, returning their budget to the total amount originally submitted. The Town Administrator again stated this meeting was for the Finance Committee to vote on the budget recommended by himself and the Board of Selectmen.

Harbormaster \$86,580 for personal services + \$25,877 for expenses = \$112,457

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Jason Viveiros

Vote: 3-0-1

Acting Police Chief Lt. Thomas Kelley and Police Admin. Laura Casey-Pupek were present to answer questions. Number of employees are 33, including 7 dispatchers. Carl stated FY25 budget request is 5% above FY24 budget, but management is successful with providing proper staffing, salaries, and equipment. Tom and Laura stated that body worn cameras have been provided through a grant and Arpa funds. However, a new police station is desperately needed and could possibly be built next to a fire station.

Police \$4,325,469 for personal services + \$224,900 for expenses = \$4,550,369

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Elaine Fiore

Vote: 4-0-0

Town Administrator Keith Hickey was present to answer questions. There are 4 employees in the Selectmen Office. There are stipend increases in addition to wage increases. The position of Assistant Town Administrator will be removed and a new position of Procurement Officer will be added. This position is on the list of budget cuts if necessary. Elaine had questions with some line items that could not be answered at this time.

Selectmen \$411,895 for personal services + \$81,500 for expenses = \$493,395

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Elaine Fiore

Vote: 4-0-0



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To approve the 1/24/24 meeting minutes

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Elaine Fiore

Vote: 4-0-0

Member Comments, Questions, and Concerns

None

Adjourn

At 7:14pm a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Cowett, seconded by Elaine Fiore, and passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting

March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm in room 203 and via zoom