

**Minutes of the Finance Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

**Attending:** John Carter, Brenda Edgerly, Denise Everest, Mark Rogers, Paul Verrel

**Not attending:** Todd Abbott, David Fedrizzi

**Also Attending:** Frank Allen, Frank Birkemose, Doug Foglio, Eric Herrle, Willis Lord  
Mike McAlevey, Kevin Nelsor

The Fire Chief had been invited to speak to the committee this evening. Mark opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and afforded the members the opportunity to ask Chief Birkemose questions regarding articles related to the Fire Department. Frank explained that Referenda Question #1 (\$55,000) for the Holmatro Extrusion Tool (Jaws of Life), would not exceed the amount indicated. This equipment is certified to cut through the newer vehicles, especially SUV's. Frank indicated that the money, if approved by the citizens, would come from billing capital with a lease/ purchase option, and not from taxation. The old equipment is questionable as it is over 25 years old. The old tool cannot cut through the newer vehicles.

Article 25: Fire Department request for \$22,000.00 for a Fire Fighter/Fire Marshall. This position has been filled by a volunteer who has provided services for Fire prevention education, Fire inspections and Fire investigation. This position would fill the above services, work with the CEO and provide additional fire fighter coverage. Frank indicated that the fire prevention program has been very effective. Calls for the 2002-2003 year have gone down significantly, especially fires set by juveniles. This position would be 40 hours, 8:00- 4:00 daily, Monday -Friday. A flex schedule has been discussed but there is not a sufficient force to crew the ambulance around the clock in this fashion. This can be explored at a later date. The possibility of regionalization and consolidation of services between towns has also been discussed. Frank will propose a tri-town operation with Buxton, Hollis and Waterboro. In discussion, committee members indicated that this position will also be eligible for benefits from the town. A discussion of this article will resume next week.

Frank indicated that the fire department has never charged the homeowners insurance companies even though some towns have recovered costs for structure fires through this avenue. He indicated that the subscription offered by the Fire Department was increasing each year. Mark mentioned that there may be some language removed from article #24 again as it has been in the past year. ("Any monies left at the end of the year to be carried over and held in an account designated only for emergency purchases of Fire Department equipment, to be spent with joint approval from the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Chief.") That did not present a problem for the Fire Chief.

Article #26: This article needs to remain as this is the third year of payment out of a 6

year repayment plan. This article will remain on the warrant for the next three years.

Article #29: Willis indicated that this amount (\$7,400.00) is the equal portion paid by the three joined towns for the balance of the grant to purchase a new fire truck for the Ross Corner Fire Station.

The Selectmen met with the Finance Committee to discuss the warrant in general. John indicated that there was no line on the referendum items which indicates the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Willis said that this will be corrected on the final warrant. It was further discussed that if the state election results in the approval of the citizen initiated tax revision, that no capital funding occur in the town for one year so the town can see just how the revisions will effect Waterboro.

Mark initiated a discussion on wages and salaries. Selectmen Herrle said that a flat 5age is currently used but the selectmen in general would prefer a merit based salary increase. Some discussion about a Town Planner/ Assessor occurred. Doug indicated that several towns are considering the use of a full-time shared planner. More discussion is needed on this topic. Our current assessor is on a contract of \$26,000.00 which amounts to \$500.00/week.

Brenda requested a line item accounting for Article #11. A figure should be indicated for the amount of Insurances, Social 'Security, Unemployment, Workers' Comp, Retirement, FICA etc. It was also noted that some of the items in this list ought not to be included as 'insurances'.

Article #12: Doug stated that he would like to correct the door on the vault. This should be a combination vault door that is fire proof in order to protect the investment of the books that have been reconditioned.

Article #13: Line items need to be indicated in this department as has been done in other areas. It is acknowledged that these are estimated costs for that CEO department.

Article #14: Fees and fines will go ;into the General Fund and will not revert back to the Building Fund. Monies received for special gifts will be applied to a dedicated account. The Library Friends group handles these dedicated funds.

Article #15: Doug mentioned that if a grant has not been secured this \$40,000.00 should not be approved. He did state that a special meeting can be called for the release of existing money (\$43,000.00).

Article #17: The proposal has been prepared. The money reverts to the General Fund if the grant is not successful.

Article #22: Amount requested is \$45,000.00. The Finance Committee suggested that a

Town Planner be shared and contracted to serve a small group of towns with like needs. Finance Committee requests \$22,500.00.

Article #30: this is the final year of the contract sheriff. Waterboro is obligated to pay \$61,992.01.

Article #31: After minimal discussion, the question arose regarding who owns the fire tower on Ossipee Mountain.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be arranged.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Carter, Secretary