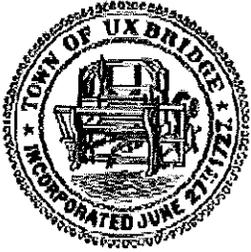


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Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2011

Place: Lower Town Hall

Present:

Christine Horwath	P	Mark Andrews	P	Howard Fortner	P
Peter DeMers	P	John Morawski	P	Ray Wright	P
Maureen Kearnan	P				

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Minutes: October 12, 2011, October 19, 2011, November 15, 2011

The Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2011, had been approved at a previous meeting and were erroneously included on this month's agenda.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To approve the minutes of October 19, 2011 as written.				
1 st	MK	2 nd	JM	Vote	Motion withdrawn.

Discussion: Mr. Fortner objected to the motion on the grounds that the minutes, as written, did not include his reference to the Uxbridge Home Rule Charter, re: Agendas. A brief discussion followed regarding the Meeting Minute content, and Mr. Fortner agreed to send Mr. DeMers the wording that he would like to have included in the minutes. Mr. DeMers had prepared the minutes of October 19, 2011. Mrs. Kearnan withdrew the motion so that the Committee could review the minutes again at the next meeting.

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To approve the minutes of November 15, 2011 as written.				
1 st	HF	2 nd	MA	Vote	7-0-0

The motion was approved.

2. Monthly Reports

Note: This agenda item was discussed after item number 3 in consideration of the Chairman of the School Committee, Ernest Esposito, who was present at the request of the Finance Committee to speak to Agenda item number 3.

For the monthly reports of October and November 2011, the Finance Director, David Genereux, reported that there was not much out of the ordinary. Mr. Genereux expressed concerns for Veterans' Benefits and the Fire Department as potential stresses on the budget and expects quite a few transfers at the May 2012 Town Meeting and the need to tap into reserves. Mr. Genereux is not expecting a transfer for Snow and Ice.

Mr. Genereux noted that the Town may carry an operating deficit at the end of the current Fiscal Year, as allowed by Massachusetts General Law, which can be raised in next year's budget.

Mr. Genereux answered questions from the Committee.

3. School Review of 2012 Budget and future 2013 Budget

Mr. Esposito discussed the plan for integrating the new Uxbridge High School into the Town's Public School facilities and resources for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

The staff of the Uxbridge High School will remain the same. The one change is that the Librarian, who is currently employed as Part-Time Staff, will become Full-Time Staff, increasing from 0.60 to 1.0. This will be the only addition at the High School.

The Middle School is currently grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Grades 6, 7, and 8 will move to the building that is currently home to Uxbridge High School with no changes in staff.

Grades 1, 2, and 5 will not move.

The building which is currently known as Whitin Middle School will become home to grades 3, 4, and 5. The teachers for grades 3 and 4 will move from the current home to Taft Elementary School to the building that is currently called Whitin Middle School. Two clerks will move. There will be a principal but no assistant principal. A Lead Teacher will be designated in lieu of an assistant principal.

The building which is currently home to Taft Elementary School will be home to students currently at Good Shepherd. Pre-K, kindergarten, and grades 1 and 2 will move to Taft. A clerk *may* be added at Taft. The school system will add a kindergarten teacher, which is independent of the new Uxbridge High School coming on-line. Kindergarten will become all-day, which will eliminate mid-day transportation, saving approximately \$27,000. Last year, Uxbridge also paid out roughly \$96,000 to other towns due to kindergarten School Choice Out, and all-day kindergarten ought to alleviate much of this outflow.

Mr. Esposito addressed questions on custodian salaries and wages, maintenance, the Early Learning Center staffing, transportation, and the new technology initiative planned for the High School beginning in the fall of 2012.

4. Downtown Revitalization

The Town Manager, Sean Hendricks, discussed plans for downtown, made possible by through a Grant of \$175,000. The project includes plans for demolition of the building next to the Senior Center, additional parking, some greenway areas, and street lights. Hazardous material in the building, asbestos and lead paint, will impact funding. In the future, a “re-pointing” of Town Hall may be considered, which is not part of this project, and may require funding from the new Capital Fund.

5. Disbursement/Sale of tax Lien properties

Mr. Genereux stated that the Town is not collecting money at a sufficient rate. Chapter 60, Section 52 of Massachusetts General Law allows for the auction of properties against which the Town holds a tax lien, either individually or in bulk.

Bids will begin at the minimum amount that is due on the day of the auction; that is, no discount will be given on the interest that is due. Two hundred and four properties are being considered for tax lien auction to owners who have not paid taxes and interest to the town for the years FY 2005 to FY 2011. Home owners will receive three notices; Massachusetts General Law requires one posting, Mr. Genereux stated.

The Public Auction will be held March 1, 2012. The Town will sell a “Priority Claims Tax Lien,” which supersedes mortgages and all other liens, according to Mr. Genereux. Those who purchase these Priority Claims Tax Liens can foreclose, if desired. The Town will auction the properties on a lien-by-lien basis. Ideally, the proceeds will become part of free cash.

For the 204 properties being considered for this auction, the impact to the Town of these property owners who do not pay their taxes is \$1.135 million.

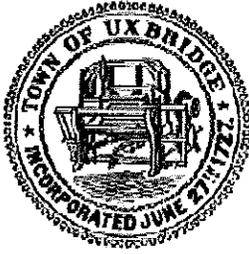
6. Town Bridges Report

Mr. Hendricks reported on the status of the Town’s bridge repair efforts. River Road is open, as of December 1st. The bridge on Route 122 over the Blackstone River looks as if it will be completed about one year from now. The scope of work that needs to be done on the bridge at Marywood Street is too large to be addressed at present. Chapter 90 funding, a State Grant that is part of the Town’s allotment, will be required, and work ought to begin this summer. The bridge on Hecla Street is estimated to be completed at the end of FY 2012.

7. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn meeting.				
1 st	MA	2 nd	MK	Vote	7-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Dec 14, 2011

Name	Signature	Date
Christine Horwath		1/17/12
Mark Andrews		
Howard Fortner		1/17/12
Peter DeMers		17 JAN 2012
John Morawski		1/17/12
Ray Wright		
Maureen Kearnan		1/17/12