



# TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

TOWN HALL  
1009 MAIN ST  
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Aznavoorian, Chairman  
Damin Sutherby, Vice Chair  
Rob Kocsmiersky, Clerk  
Raymond Lisiecki  
Thomas L. Cooke  
Laurence Sanford  
Paul McDermott

### Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2014

#### 1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by David Aznavoorian, Chairman, at the temporary Town Hall (Pike House). Present were Ray Lisiecki, Damin Sutherby, Tom Cooke, Rob Kocsmiersky, Larry Sanford, and Paul McDermott. Also present was Richard Montuori, Town Manager, Karen Kucala, Finance Director, and Melissa Johnson, Recording Secretary.

#### 2) Town Manager and Finance Director Reports (as applicable)

Ms. Kucala reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report aloud. There is approximately \$3 million more in revenues than what was projected. This is largely due to health insurance.

The free cash breakdown is as follows: \$4,639,395 from general fund, \$4,691,150 from sewer, and \$1,949,353 from water.

Mr. Sanford asked about the \$600,000 from tax titles. Ms. Kucala explained that this is for delinquent taxes. The current tax collector is much more aggressive on these matters than previous tax collectors.

Mr. Sanford asked about the teacher salary deferrals. Ms. Kucala explained that the town voted to defer teacher's last pay in, or about, 1993. Mr. Montuori explained that the teachers receive a lump sum. Tewksbury made two deferrals; the first has been paid and this is the second. There is a payment schedule and the deferral was allowed by the State due to cuts in State Aid.

Mr. McDermott asked if the 95% collection rate is average and Mr. Montuori confirmed this.

Mr. Aznavoorian noted that the revenue from the meals tax was higher than what was projected and asked if the projection will now be higher. Mr. Montuori confirmed this and noted that it was increased \$100,000 from last year.

Discussion took place on the hotel/motel tax also being higher than the projection. Mr. Montuori explained that this is the result of transitional families from Lowell and Lawrence. The town is responsible for the transportation cost to their home schools. Mr. Montuori noted that the State may be eliminating this program.

Mr. Montuori noted that of the \$4.6 million that was turned back, \$1.3 million came from health insurance. This will likely not happen again.

Mr. Cooke asked how much of the \$13.1 million that is raised and appropriated for health insurance goes into the trust fund. Mr. Montuori will provide this information.

Discussion took place on the claims trust fund. Mr. Montuori explained that since the town is self insured, 3 months should be carried. Mr. Cooke asked how much is in the trust presently and Ms. Kucala noted \$4,271,000. Mr. Cooke inquired about interest and dividends and Mr. Kucala noted that she will provide this information.

Mr. Cooke discussed the funds available due to health insurance and suggested these funds be put towards the tax rate to help with some upcoming liabilities. Mr. Montuori explained that he will not use free cash to reduce taxes and he feels the concerns many have with the taxes are with the services that are being provided such as parks, roads, etc.

Mr. Sutherby asked about the water treatment plant. Mr. Montuori explained that the project is still ongoing and that they did not want to rush. Rates have been set taking the improvements of the plant into consideration.

Mr. Sutherby inquired about the DPW equipment and noted that it was difficult to get the street sweeper approved. Mr. Montuori explained that the town currently rents a cutter for 2 weeks at \$3,600 a week.

Mr. Sutherby asked about the "Adopt an Island" program. Mr. Montuori explained that the funds paid will used to purchase a sign for the island to advertise their business as well as mulch at the DPW.

Mr. McDermott noted that there are two lines items for Powers and Sullivan in Article 4. Mr. Montuori noted that this is a duplicate and he will correct this.

**3) Finance Committee Matters of Interest (as applicable)**

None.

**4) Committee Member Reports**

None.

**5) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There was no meeting minutes presented for approval.

**6) Approval of Payment of Recording Secretary Timesheet**

None.

**7) Future Proposed Meeting Dates (subject to change)**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee public hearing on the Special Town Meeting warrant articles will take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at the Pike House.

**Adjourn.**

**MOTION: Mr. Kocsmiersky made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cooke and the motion carried 6-0.**

**Approved: January 29, 2015**

**Documents Presented and/or Discussed  
September 4, 2014**

- 1) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Reports  
A copy can be found with the Finance Department
  
- 2) Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles  
A copy can be found with the Town Manager's office