

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 8, 2013

ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN, ED HOAK; NANCY GAJOLI, MICHELE HAMILTON, CHERYL MARSHALL, DEAN LARABEE, TOWN ACCOUNTANT, KATHY AVILLA; VETERANS AGENT, JACK TAYLOR; SUPERINTENDENT OF BERKLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TOM LYNCH AND BERKLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUSINESS MANAGER, ANDREA PORTER

### **Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Ed Hoak at 7:07 PM**

This meeting was a scheduled budget hearing for the purpose of continuing the FY2014 budget process. This budget hearing involved general ledger 543 (Veterans) and 300 (Berkley Public Schools).

MINUTES: The minutes of April 1, 2013 were read, seconded and passed.

REVIEW OF VETERANS (G/L 543): Mr. Taylor presented the committee with several handouts supporting his FY2014 budget request. Mr. Taylor explained that the job he is doing for the Veterans of Berkley and Dighton cannot be done in the 8 hours a week he is currently paid to work. He stated that his current workload necessitates a work week of at least 20 hours. He stated that he is not involved in any outreach efforts at present. Based on population, Berkley would pay 46% of his increased salary, and Dighton the remainder. It is important to note that Berkley currently has 6 Veterans cases, while Dighton has 16. Mr. Taylor presented his compensation request and asked for more hours per week for his assistant. He said he understood the financial pressures put on the town and mentioned he would accept any raise gladly.

REVIEW OF BERKLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (G/L 300): Mr. Lynch and Mrs. Porter presented the Berkley Public Schools budget request, which was originally presented to the school committee at a public meeting in January. A discussion took place regarding MCAS and the common core standards. Our current math curriculum does not address all of the common core standards, so the Superintendent has included a math curriculum upgrade in his current budget. The cost has been reduced to reflect partial payment of this expense with funds that are available from the FY2013 budget. The budget requests an increase over FY2013's budget of 5.6% or \$ 447,044.23. Mr. Hoak explained the situation currently facing the town and that this increase was unrealistic given the increases to our assessments from Bristol Plymouth and the Regional High School. Additionally, the school budget subcommittee has made headway in resolving the Regional High School stabilization deficit issue. If the schools were to receive all of the funds they requested, the total would be over \$ 800,000, yet the town has roughly \$ 500,000 for all FY2014 budget increases. Due to missing budget inputs from other departments, the committee was not prepared to provide the Superintendent with a budget figure for FY2014, but would not rule out level funding the budget for the year. The school budget will be reviewed again, along with other school related issues at a special meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM.

**A motion was made; second to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM, approved unanimously.**