

**Spencer Finance Committee**  
**March 11, 2014**

**Call meeting to order:** 7:05 p.m.

**Members Present** :Mary Braney, Chair, Nancy Herholz, John Desmarais, Robbin Joyce, Julie Parenteau, Chris Bowen & Nancy Tame.

Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator

**Guests:** Mary Baker-Wood, Library Director & Lynn Dobson, Library Trustee Chair; David Darrin, Police Chief & Robert Parsons, Fire Chief.

**Minutes:** Approval for February 18, 2014 Minutes postponed until next meeting, March 18, 2014.

**Correspondence:**

Letter from Bay Path Vocational Regional High School

**Staff Presentation**

**Library Director**, Mary Baker-Wood & Lynn Dobson explained how the library is funded and the guide lines that must be followed; explained the importance of library services to the community; presented the goals to assist in long-range planning; presented line by line salaries & wages & expenses.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

**Police Chief**, David Darrin presented his FY2015 level-service budget; explained line by line salaries & wages & expenses and the importance with regard to keeping all current service & staff in place. Any reduction would have an impact on core services, which would adversely affect the officers and public safety.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

**Fire Chief**, Robert Parsons presented his FY2015 level-service budget which is broken down into two categories; operational & service/performance based; explained line by line salaries & wages & expenses; the budget is based on what is expected to in order provide sufficient service to the community.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

## **Liaison Report:**

**Capital Improvement Planning Committee:** Nancy Herholz reported that the committee met for their final meeting March 4, 2014. Ranking & final recommendations were submitted to Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator.

**SEBRSC:** Mary Braney & John Desmarais attended the March 6, 2014 meeting. School District states that they will produce a level-service budget. John stated that the meeting accomplished very little; he was very disappointed with the meeting and how it was conducted. The FY15 level-service budget, finally voted on by the school committee, was approved at \$24,151,795.00, by a margin of 6-1.

FY15 school district budget was debated as to the funding or lack thereof. The preliminary budget request from the school district would adversely affect the town. The 2 ½ increase, which the town routinely increases the tax base each year, would go to the district leaving none of the tax increase for the town.

The town is facing FY15 with a deficit and is anticipating an override to fund their level-service budget.

FinCom members voiced frustration with attempting to get sufficient & reliable information with regard to the school district's expenses; requested that Interim Superintendent provide clear detail & explanation as to how he arrived with the budget numbers that he is presenting.

Discussion, questions & comments

**Review FY2015 Budget Update:** Adam Gaudette started with much of what he was going to be discussed was talked about in the SEBRSC Liaison Report.

**Any Further Business:** Nothing further.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 9:17 p.m.

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Julie Parenteau

Approved: Unanimously

\*Next regular Finance Committee meeting March 18, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nancy E. Herholz*