

Minutes of Finance Committee-Draft

DATE: March 12, 2008

LOCATION: Sanford Hall
Village Street
Medway, MA 02053

PRESENT: Frank Faist, Joy Smith Dahl, Phil Giangarra, Phyllis Cerel, Ned Myers, Robert Kenney, Paul Marble, Jan Fish, Mark Brown, Eric Arbeene

ABSENT: Larry Ellsworth

GUESTS: Susan Affleck-Childs, Barbara Durand, Deborah Trindade, Dawn Rice Norton, Steve Dahl, Dr. Grandmont, Susan Connolly, David Verdolino

PURPOSE: Budget presentations by Planning Board and School Committee

Robert Kenney called the Finance Committee (Fin Com) meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Susan Affleck-Childs-Planning Board Presentation

- Non-Zoning Articles to be discussed. Key points on cover sheets and attached to maps of parcels. (documents attached to minutes)

Article Name: Open Space Committee

- Summary of article-This article amends the Medway General Bylaws to establish a 5-9 member Open Space Committee. The article specifies the duties, membership and terms of office. The Committee will function as a public body.

Questions from FinCom

- Why not CPC? Why is it Open Space?
CPC is steward of CPC funds not necessarily a generator of projects.
Open Space does research and advocating for the projects and feeds the projects to CPC.
- Why Planning board appointing the members?
Because Planning board negotiates with developers for small bits of open space.
- Can CPC fund?
Yes, groundwork in good shape for that.

Article Name: 43D Priority Development Sites

- Summary of article-This article creates 3 additional Priority Development sites in Medway under the State's 43D Expedited Permitting program. Two areas are in the east side industrial park and one area is a collection of Town owned parcels in the Oak Grove/bottle cap area. See attached maps.

Questions from FinCom

- What about lots on 109 with houses on them?
Phase 1 at this time not going after the lots that have houses on them.
- Any resistance from abutters?
Most are willing to work with the town
- This is Medway Industrial Park, is this a rezoning?
No, this is not a rezoning
- Isn't this close to where the new well will be located?

The new well site is north of this area

Phil and Frank raised concern for the proximity of the new well.

Susan explained that there are restrictive standards for industrial sites.

Robert explained that the first step is to attract industry and this is the first step in that process.

- What is the zoning classification?

Industrial 1

Article Name: Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Summary of this article-This article amends the Medway General Bylaws to establish a Medway Affordable Housing Trust Fund under M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53C. The article specifies the purpose, powers, duties, source of revenues, composition, terms of office, organizational structure, etc. The Fund functions as a public body.

Questions from FinCom

- Would CPC Fund?

3rd component of CPC. Yes, they are the source of the funds.

- Would they be able to hire or would it be volunteers?

Yes, they would be able to hire.

- This would be 4 others + the Town Administrator?

Yes, per state law.

- Is it possible for developers to donate land through this? It reads as all donations are money and not land.

Susan will check on this and get back to FinCom on this question.

Barbara Durand-Town Accountant advised that this would be a donation of land. The jurisdiction is under the Board of Trustees not under the Town.

Article Name: Street/Infrastructure Acceptance

Summary of Article-This article lists the streets that might be ready for acceptance as public ways and the associated easements and drainage infrastructure and two drainage parcels to be conveyed to the Town. At Town Meeting, the Planning Board will provide specific recommendations for acceptance and dismissal.

Questions from FinCom

- Are there certain standards for these particular roads? As an example are they in poor condition and will the Town then have the expense of bringing them up to code in the near future?

Yes, there are very specific standards during the construction of roads etc. They must be inspected throughout the process. However, some were built when the standards were different. They don't have to be up to today's standards, only up to the standards for the date/year they were approved. Some were built under 1970's standards.

- Who plows them now?

Most are privately plowed. Accepting these roads will change the plowing budget.

Article Name: Blueberry Hill Road Improvements

Summary of Article-This article appropriates \$25,000 in donated funds to be used by DPS exclusively for improvements to Blueberry Hill Road, presently an unaccepted street.

Questions from FinCom

- There were no FinCom questions but Susan did note that we couldn't improve this road until we own it. The \$25K will pay for most of the improvements. This has come up at previous town meetings.

PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL BUDGET

**Presented by: Susan Connolly, School Committee Chairman
Dr. Richard Grandmont, Superintendent of Schools**

**Presentation attached Titled Medway Public Schools
Fiscal Year 2009
Budget Hearing
March 6, 2008**

Also included with the paper copy of these minutes is a CD with the FY 2009 School Budget

This presentation was designed around Status Quo/Level Staffing

FinCom Question: Are step increases average year to year?
Yes, they are fairly consistent year to year.

Summary of requests: The items in the presentation are in priority order for now. The School Committee voted on them at the time they were sent to BOS/FinCom. They are "Best Thinking" at that time. Will rethink before the budget is finalized.

FinCom Question: What year does this get us back to?
Before 2004. If the schools gets \$716K still will be behind FY2005.

There will be 53 additional students in the district next year. Most of that increase will impact the High School

FinCom Question: Why is the High School #6 in requests if the HS is in the crunch?
All of them should be #1.

Technology needs to be a commitment; it has been put on the back burner for years. Depending on the revenue, SC may change priorities and may divide up the money and fund different amounts to different items.
If the SC doesn't get all the money they are requesting they will look at again and reprioritize.

FinCom Question: Computer replacement phase 2. Isn't this a 2-year lease fee?
Year 1-school choice money paid for. Will have to find another source if we don't get anything above level staffing.

If a contracted lease, why is it not in the operating budget?
It was not in the operating budget last year and we will try to continue as last year and use the school choice money.

FinCom Question: Is the Curriculum coordinator a FT or PT employee?
This position is a PT employee. Someone was moved into this position that was already a school employee. ½ time reading ½ time curriculum coordinator. The Curriculum Coordinator supplemental item was withdrawn by the SC because it is already in their level service budget.

FinCom Question: The TriCounty number that we contribute, do we have any control over the amount we contribute?
To an extent, yes we do. Not one town can make a change. The network can vote to change.

FinCom Question: Why the difference in the Other teacher services (column contained in the PPE spreadsheet from the DOE) between 2007 and 2008?
In 2007 there was a greater use of in house special ed services needed and Contractors were brought in to help out. 2008 we found it was cheaper to be done by Medway staff so thus the decrease in expense.

FinCom Question: In the Superintendent's Roundtable discussions, where do other superintendents believe this budget mess is going to end up?
Dr. Grandmont stated that he thinks there is going to be a need for some drastic changes to help with the Special ed costs and for SPED transportation costs. Legislature is going to have to address the shortfalls. Medway is in a better place. The current Ch 70 aid formula benefits Medway. Medway will be receiving approx \$1 Million in aid next year as well.

FinCom Question: Will you be able to maintain if we are able to fund you?
We are in a 5 year plan with this formula. We are on year 3. If the Ch 70 money is dedicated to the school we should be able to maintain for a few years.

FinCom Question: Is there a line item for instructional supplies?
Yes, 1st page of every section.

FinCom Question: The IT Director for the school is retiring, with the charter there is to be an IT Director for the town. Has there been any conversation with the town to implement that now?
The charter has not passed yet. This position will need to be discussed with the SC.

**REVENUES: Barbara Durand, Town Accountant
Updates were requested by FinCom. See Attached document.**

Local Receipts: Personal and Real Estate are on target
Excise: Good news only dropped \$25,000 with loss of Bevilaqua Paving.
Water: Fine
Sewer: Should even out.
67.74% collected, Barbara thinks in good shape.

BOS '09 Table 2
Fiscal 2007 through 2009 Revenue Table See attached.

**Motion to pay Secretary, Wendy Harrington. \$209.71 by Phil, second by Paul.
Approved by all present.**

Motion to adjourn by Phil, second by Phyllis, approved by all present 9:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Harrington
Finance Committee Secretary