



Medway Finance Committee

155 Village Street
Medway, Massachusetts 02053

*Frank Faist, Chairman
Larry Ellsworth, Vice Chairman
Phil Giangarra, Clerk
Eric Arbeene, Member
Mark Brown, Member
Phyllis Cerel, Member
Jeff DeVolder, Member
Jan Fish, Member
Paul Marble, Member*

Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2009
Sanford Hall
Medway Town Hall

Call to Order: With a quorum being met, this meeting was called to order by Chairman Faist at: 7:04pm.

Members Present: Frank Faist, Chairman, Larry Ellsworth, Vice Chairman, Phil Giangarra, Clerk and Members: Eric Arbeene, Mark Brown, Phyllis Cerel, Jeff DeVolder, Jan Fish, Paul Marble and Administrative Assistant Shirley Bliss.

Guest Present:

Board of Selectman members: Andy Espinosa, Denis Crowley, and Chairman Glenn Trindade.
School Committee members: Superintendent, Judith Evans, Dawn Rice-Norton, Carole Bernstein, Shelly Weiler, Stephen Dahl and Vice Chairman, Debra Trindade.
Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy, DPS Director Dave D'Amico, IT Director, Richard Boucher

ETR – ESCO Review Committee Consultant: In an agreement made between the BOS, FinCom and the School Committee a consultant was hired to review the TRANE contract. This emergency transfer is to cover the costs of this consultant who will be paid from funds in the BOS budget. With a motion from Larry Ellsworth and seconded from Paul Marble this committee agreed to an emergency transfer of \$10,000 to pay the consultant for the TRANE contract. Vote: 8-0-0.

Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectman: Chairman Glenn Trindade spoke on behalf of the Board of Selectman. Mr. Trindade stressed that their budget put forward was one based upon a goal of maintain current staffing and services. It also assumed a wage freeze across the board. The only increases proposed were for legal matters and mandated spending in the areas of step increases and special education. It also did not allow for any non-recurring items currently in the FY09 budget and the use of free cash to cover the anticipated 145k deficit.

Mr. Trindade also outlined other areas that the budget includes: merging library services with Franklin, creation of a Human Resources line item, creation of Information Services line item and new salary figures for both Police and Municipal employees. A sharp increase in the snow and ice line item was also mentioned; (FY09 currently over spent by \$600,000). Revenue projections were also discussed, as well as possible strategies for the pending State Stimulus money. A copy of The Board of Selectman's presentation is attached.

The merging of the Franklin and Medway libraries was discussed in as it could not only save Medway money, but also offer the Town more services then currently offered. This merger is under consideration, but all were cautioned that the final decision belongs to the Library Board of Trustees.

State Aid options: Mr. Trindade stated that because the numbers have not been released yet, several scenarios are being considered. One possibility is the postponing of the May Annual Town Meeting. The law states that you are able to continue/postpone as long as your budget is approved by June 30th. This was greeted with many questions from this Board concerning the time table in the printing of the book that must go to all town residents.

Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectman (continued):

School Superintendent Evans stated that she has been 99% assured that the Town of Medway will receive 1.6m in FY10 and another 1.6m in FY11 in Chapter 70 Special Education monies. Dr. Evans also stated that a percentage of that money may be used to introduce new programs. The concrete figures should come out by March 20th.

School Budget: FY10 budget has an increase of \$822,000, (a 3.7% increase from FY09) which represents a level needs budget. This Committee recommended that the School Committee develop a back up budget that matches the one put forward by the Board of Selectman. Increased is due to wag increases, bus and custodial contact increase, and special education changes. Current MCAS scores were questioned and discussed. Currently approximately 1/3 of the students failed one test. The school is currently working on a program to meet the learning needs of the children at the both low and the higher levels. The Superintendent was asked by this committee to look into ways of purchasing certain items such as paper, ink, toner in bulk and town wide to save money.

Questions/Request: Dave D'Amico asked if possible could the department heads receive any questions the FinCom has in advance to assure that they have the answer at their appointment. This Committee agreed with this request.

Meeting Minutes approval: The minutes from January 22, and February 11, 2009 were carried forward with no vote.

Liaison and subcommittee updates:

Jeff – No report

Phil – Planning Board has approved the Phase I of development on West Street. Phase I contains 18 units – 9 duplexes with 3 of them being reserved for affordable housing.

Jan – Master Plan is moving along. Requested pages in the Finance Committee Book, request granted.

Larry – No report

Eric – No report

Mark – No report

Phyllis – Organic Garden – wetlands have been flagged, hoping to plant in time for a crop this year.

Will begin to sell shares next year, 40 full and 80 half will be offered the first year. The contract between the Garden and the Town is being worked on and should be completed soon.

Paul – Open Space – Plan in place, held a Public Meeting to show the town its progress. Funding will come from State and The Upper Charles.

Frank – Asked each Committee member to begin working on their write up for the book. TRANE review committee has met, the RFQ has gone out and they have received and reviewed 3 of the 8 respondents. The remaining will be interview in the coming week with a final decision being made and the consultant working by March 20, 2009. Finance Committee Book – postage is an issue, the post office has a new way of handling this type of mail. Ad Print will be doing the printing as they had the best price.

Adjournment: With no further business before this Committee a motion was made (Phyllis Cerel) and seconded (Jan Fish) to adjourn this meeting at: 9:22pm. Vote: 8-0-0.

