



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE
155 Village Street
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March 12, 2014 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street

Present: Jeff O'Neill, Chairman; Frank Rossi, Vice-Chair; Barry Schroeder, Clerk; Members: Todd Alessandri; Christine Devine (7:12 PM); Neil Kennedy; and Chris Lagan (7:05 PM).

Absent: Meghan Hoffman, Jim Sullivan.

Also Present: Suzanne Kennedy, Town Administrator.

There being a quorum present, Chairman O'Neill called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Discussion – Preliminary FY15 Budget Information/Town Meeting:

Chairman O'Neill stated the budget information is still in process, noting that there are some challenges in the projections and forecasts. Ms. Kennedy indicated she hopes to have those worked out soon.

Chairman O'Neill briefly reviewed the timeline going forward to Town Meeting, noting that the Finance Committee's public hearing will not be on April 2. It will likely be on April 9, in conjunction with the regular meeting, if the information can be reviewed beforehand. Brief discussion followed on member availability in the next few weeks for additional meetings.

Ms. Kennedy stated the booklet will be handled like last year with postcards notifying residents how they can receive it, electronically or hard copy. Chairman O'Neill reminded members they need to work on reports for the Town Meeting booklets and asked for these by April 9.

Discussion – Proposed Full-Day Kindergarten:

Chairman O'Neill indicated that he wanted members to be aware that this topic was being discussed. Mr. Todd Alessandri reported that he requested information on budget changes from Superintendent Evans, but she did not respond with any information relative to kindergarten. It is not clear whether this initiative will come together in time for the upcoming budget year. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Eric Arbeene, former Finance Committee member 2009-2011, stated his wife is a teacher in Marlborough, and added that the full-day program is something worth funding. Fifty towns do not have full-day kindergarten while 320 communities do. From an educational standpoint, it is the right thing to do, getting children more fully engaged in education at an earlier age. It also makes the town more attractive to people who are relocating.

Chairman O'Neill expressed concern that not enough information is available. It is barely a month away from approving the FY15 budget and yet no information is available for review.

Mr. Alessandri indicated several options were proposed at a School Committee meeting: (1) no change; (2) partial funding and (3) a fully-funded program. Presentation materials put forth by the task force, including dollar amounts, had not been reviewed by the full School Committee. Ms. Devine theorized that the funding will likely come out of the School Budget and not out of free cash.

Ms. Cindy Sullivan, representing the School Committee, reported that Dr. Evans presented some funding options at the meeting. Basically the plan would be to reduce five staff members over a two-year period, as well as reduction of circuit breaker and other fund sources. The subcommittee task force is working on another presentation for the School Committee meeting on the 20th. She added that the HR position is also not being added to staff, which leaves \$60,000 to add to the potential funding.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman O'Neill stated he would continue working to get the budget information.

Clerk's Report:

Mr. Barry Schroeder, Clerk, reported there have been no changes to the Finance Committee account.

Liaison Reports:

Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Frank Rossi stated he could not attend, but did get some information on the Thayer redevelopment project. It is on schedule with an anticipated completion for late April. There are 8 or 9 functions already booked.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee reviewed draft minutes from February 12, 2014.

Mr. Chris Lagan moved that the Committee approve the minutes from February 12, 2014, as amended; Mr. Todd Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 6-0-1 -- Kennedy abstain.

Next Meeting:

The Finance Committee's public hearing for 2014 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in Sanford Hall, 155 Village Street; the regular monthly meeting of the Finance Committee will follow the conclusion of the public hearing.

At 7:40 PM Mr. Chris Lagan moved to adjourn; Mr. Neil Kennedy seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary