

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Date: March 6, 2006

Time: 7:00p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Raymond, Tripaldi, Floser, Turbitt

Absent: Hachey, Hebert

Meeting was called to order at 7:22p.m.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by O'Connor to accept the minutes of February 27, 2006 as submitted. Unanimous.

Raymond: We need a policy on Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund. We need to determine what it will be used for. Ed had brought this up earlier.

O'Connor: To add or subtract from the Stabilization Fund needs Town Meeting vote. The Town can write their own policy as long as it is approved at Town Meeting.

Floser: How many Stabilization Funds are there?

Raymond: There is only one. Is the Stabilization Fund going to be used at the Town Manager's discretion or is it for a long-term expenditure or an emergency. We just need a policy to go by. If someone requests a transfer from this fund, it should go by policy.

Floser: If someone wants to request from the Stabilization Fund, they should come before us and explain to us why they need the transfer.

O'Connor: Why don't we table this until Ed is back?

Raymond: I just want future Finance Committees to be consistent. We will table this until next week.

Proposition 2-1/2 Position

Floser: My opinion, as a taxpayer, is that I know it will eventually happen, but are we running the Town efficiently? Are we spending the money properly? Where are our checks and balances? We haven't seen any deposit reconciliations.

O'Connor: Without all the information needed, we can't make decisions. From 1993-2006, Millbury has not needed an override. Could the School survive on a \$15Million budget? Could the students still pass the MCAS with this budget?

Raymond: SPED and Health Care cause this budget to be higher than the foundation budget.

Floser: The cost comes up to 1 or 2 teachers.

O'Connor went over revenue projections.

O'Connor: We shouldn't have the problems that Paul says we're going to have with the revenue that we have coming in.

Town Meeting Play Out

Raymond: What if we can't balance at Town Meeting?

O'Connor: I have a couple of questions for the Superintendent and the School Committee. One is how much the teachers are actually paid? Is it uniform with what the State recommends? What is the rationale of asking for 3-4% and their requests are 7-9%? I just want them to know that we still have questions before they go to their public hearing on Wednesday.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by Tripaldi to submit Mike O'Connor's letter to the Superintendent and the School Committee concerning unanswered questions of the Finance Committee. Unanimous.

O'Connor: I don't feel that we should tell them what to cut. I want them to do this themselves.

Raymond: I would like to see more actuals in the budget.

Motioned by O'Connor, seconded by Floser to recommend that the chairman demand the financial information that was due on 3/1/06 from the Sewer Commissioners from the last Town Meeting. Also, to let them know that there will be no action taken on their budget until we receive this information. Unanimous.

Raymond: Wheelabrator Funds have been mismanaged for a long time. ~~Sometimes~~ For many years the Wheelabrator money was not on the recap sheet and therefore difficult to identify. ~~it is there in the and sometimes it is not.~~

Floser: What happened to the money?

Raymond: It is somewhere in free cash I suppose, ~~there~~ but we don't exactly where. ~~know how it is accounted for.~~ In the recap sheets I have there is ~~We are looking at~~ about \$5Million buried in free cash.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by O'Connor to request a reconciliation from the Town Manager or the Finance Director of the Wheelabrator Funds (deposits and withdrawals) since its inception. The Finance Committee would like this by March 27, 2006. Unanimous.

Meeting Schedule

School Committee Public Hearing---3/8/06

Dr. Fitzpatrick-Blackstone Valley---3/13/06-8:00p.m.

Board of Assessors-----3/13/06-7:30p.m.

Police Department-----3/20/06-7:30p.m.

Fire Department-----3/20/06-8:00p.m.

Library-----3/20/06-9:00p.m.

DPW-----3/27/06-7:30p.m.

Sewer Commission-----3/27/06-8:00p.m.

Town Manager/Finance Director---3/27/06-9:00p.m.

Brian Turbitt was in at 8:45p.m.

The Committee updated Turbitt on what was discussed at the meeting.
Raymond reminded the Committee about the Finance Committee Public Hearing that is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2006 at the Town Hall at 7:00p.m.

Motioned by Floser, seconded by Tripaldi to adjourn at 9:05p.m.