



Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 27, 2010

Place: Board of Selectmen Room

Present:

Howard Fortner	P	Mark Andrews	P	Peter DeMers	P
Bruce Desilets	P	Christine Horwath	P	Ed Maharay	P
Richard Young	P				

1. Call to Order: 7:00 PM

2. Reopen Public Hearing
[Motion/Second/Discussion Vote](#)

Motion	To reopen the Public Hearing for the SATM				
1st	MA	2nd	CH	Vote	7-0-0

3. Article 4 Omnibus Budget: Uxbridge School System

Michelle Taparausky, head of the Budget Subcommittee, open the discussion and spoke to the process the School Committee took in crafting the FY11 Budget. The subcommittee began its work back in September. To reach the budget target cuts were made in operations and staff. Ms. Taparausky indicated that the level of service would be cut by these reductions. Don Sawyer, School Department Business Manager, reviewed the detailed presentation of the budget. The School Committee’s recommended budget consisted of \$17,212,148 for the schools and \$1,060,784 for transportation, for a total budget of \$18,272,932. The FY11 Budget included cuts in teachers (9.8 FTE), support staff (2.0 FTE) and administrative staff (2.5 FTE). Superintendent George Zini said that cuts were made where it least impacted the students. The Superintendent identified a process where the budget was built starting with department heads and then reviewed and changed the school principals, the Superintendent, the Budget Subcommittee and, finally, the School Committee.

In response to questions, Superintendent Zini stated that the average salary increase for a teacher in FY11 would be 6.9%, which include step increases and a 3% negotiated cost of living (COLA) increase. Peter DeMers asked how the town could pay for these increases (5-7%) within the framework of Proposition 2 ½? Mr. Zini and Mr. Esposito, chair of the School Committee, indicated the problem was systemic in the industry and that talks were underway with the teachers union about the negotiated raises.

Superintendent Zini reviewed in detail the cuts required to balance the budget. He also reviewed the impact these cuts would have on class sizes. Class sizes in Grades 1, 4 and 6 will be up 2-4 students per class. The Finance Committee asked a number of specific questions about the budget and “revolving accounts”.

The School Committee indicated that it would have to cut the budget another \$341,841 if the proposed House Ways & Means budget for Chapter 70 was enacted. The School Committee had identified where the cuts would be made but did not want to make them until the House took its vote.

Mr. Fortner informed the audience that the School Committee took its vote on the budget the same night it held its public hearing. Article 6 of the Charter states “*The School Committee shall take its final vote on its proposed budget no sooner than at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the public hearing*”.

Article 2 Inter/Intra Department Transfers

The School Committee was asked about the amount and source for funding the shortfall in school transportation. The amount is not final but is expected to be around \$78,000. The source of funding will be the School Department’s technology account (\$100,000).

4. Continue Public Hearing

[Motion/Second/Discussion Vote](#)

Motion	To continue the Public Hearing for the SATM on Wednesday April 28, 2010				
1st	MA	2nd	RY	Vote	7-0-0

5. Review School Building Committee (SBC) activities and financial information.

- a. The Town Manager and Finance Director stated that the cost for the high school project, as placed on the warrant, was \$43,050,000.
- b. The committee was to put together a list of questions they had for the SBC for review the next night.

6. Adjournment (Next Meeting April 28, 2010)

[Motion/Second/Discussion Vote](#)

Motion	Adjourn meeting at 9:42 PM				
1st	CH	2nd	MA	Vote	7-0-0



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Howard Fortner		
Mark Andrews		
Peter DeMers		
Bruce Desilets		
Christine Horwath		
Ed Maharay		
Rick Young		