

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE, BOS, &
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: July 23, 2014

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

II. ROLL CALL

FinCom members present: Bonnie Cottuli, Chairman
Donna Bronk, Vice Chairman
Jeff Langan, Clerk
Dominic Cammarano

Various BOS members
Various School Committee members
Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

III. REVIEW FY2015 BUDGET & FY2016 BUDGET

Selectman Slavin stated the purpose of this meeting is to review where the Town stands re: FY2015 to date & to start getting ideas on the FY2016 budget. He noted the Five-Year Plan has projected a \$600,000 shortfall going forward.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cammarano discussed the need for getting more revenue. He questioned if the Town can get more money from the Onset parking. Mr. Sullivan stated the money would be a small amount. He noted that sticker sales are going well, but any excess funds stay close to the program/streets. He explained to those present that State aid went down \$400,000 this year. He added that the new hotel will add more revenue in a year or two (based on 50% occupancy).

Ms. Cottuli asked re: union contracts. Discussion ensued re: several issues. Mr. Sullivan stated that the contracts are being settled. He explained there are retroactive issues so the net effect will be a 2% increase each of the next three years.

Mr. Sullivan noted that relative to the FY2015 budget, the Cemetery Committee missed getting students lined up to do work.

A question was raised to the School Committee re: administrative overhead. It was stated that the School Dept. has analyzed & compared themselves to other school districts

& Wareham is in the bottom quartile. It is not clear if the comparisons looked at the number of students as a measure.

It was stated a question the School Committee wants to know is relative to exceptions to staying w/ the 2015 base line budget. The answer was no & that any savings would go into the Stabilization Fund.

A question was asked where the Town is relative to joining the Mayflower Group for medical insurance. Mr. Sullivan stated the Town will join the Mayflower Group as of October 1, 2014. The savings are already in the 2016 plan that is short \$600,000.

Discussion ensued re: debt exclusions. Several views were a flat out no & some others noted there may be some items that will be fully paid for before its useful life is over.

Ms. Bronk asked re: Charter changes dealing w/ budget deadlines. It was stated this is in the works. Mr. Langan asked why the Town can't budget w/ +/-contingencies.

Ms. Bronk feels another attempt at an override can be done. A vigorous discussion ensued. Selectman Slavin stated focus groups are being gathered to see why the people voted the override down. It was stated the issue is trust in government. Mr. Langan asked how the Town can restore that trust. There were no answers given.

NOTE: The next FinCom meeting will be August 13, 2014.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made & seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous _____

Date signed: 9/17/14

(Transcribed by Jeff Langan)

Attest: Bonnie Cottuli (KB)

Bonnie Cottuli, Chairman

WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 9/19/14