

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: August 13, 2014

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bonnie Cottuli, Chairman
Donna Bronk, Vice Chairman
Jeff Langan, Clerk
Marilyn Jordan
Joan Fontes
Tom Worthen
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 6:55 P.M.)

Members Absent: David Heard
Jeff Tufts

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Discussion re: approach to FY2016 budget.

Ms. Cottuli discussed a possible joint meeting w/ the BOS & School Committee & last year's approach to the FY2014 budget. She asked the FinCom's suggestions on the FinCom's approach to the FY2016 budget.

Ms. Bronk feels the FinCom should continue to educate the public. She stated the public will be feeling the crunch & facing reality. She stated the FinCom needs to pick & choose what the FinCom will support. She stated she would be in favor of debt exclusions on an individual basis. She feels the public was scared of living w/ an override forever.

Ms. Jordan concurs w/ Ms. Bronk re: the FinCom educating the public. She feels the FinCom also needs to know what is happening fiscally w/in the Town, for example, she would like to see an overview of the budget. She would like to see line items in the budget, not just totals. She understands the FinCom is an advisory committee & the FinCom needs to advise the residents. She feels discussions on any debt exclusions are a bit early because some people are still scared from the override proposal. She stated people need to understand how the Town got to this point. There is a need to build trust w/ the people. She stated the FinCom needs to have more information in a timely manner.

Ms. Cottuli noted that any union contracts that are settled are public information, but not if they are still in negotiations. She feels doing comparisons of contracts & salaries should be done. Brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Jordan would like to see figures & breakdowns of departments that generate money.

Mr. Langan discussed taking the budget & breaking it down into big "buckets". He briefly discussed some of these items, such as education, police, & Municipal Maintenance. He distributed comparisons of Wareham vs. the United States re: income. (Attached as reference). He stated there is a need to convince the Town that things need to be done differently.

NOTE: Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Mr. Langan distributed a five year projection he drafted. (Attached as reference).

Mr. Cammarano feels an override will be a tough sell. He stated it will take some serious thinking & work. He is not sure how to go about it. He feels there is a need to reach out to seasonal residents even though they cannot vote in Town.

Ms. Fontes feels what Mr. Langan has presented is what the residents need to see. She feels the approach should be for a balanced budget vs. an override.

Mr. Worthen feels there is a need for a grass roots approach to an override. He concurs w/ going for debt exclusions for specific items, projects, etc. & then possibly in the future go for an override. He stated there also needs to be cuts. He feels there are too many employees, high pensions, & high healthcare costs.

Ms. Cottuli feels there needs to be a better way to run Town Hall & Town government.

Ms. Bronk stated she understands Mr. Langan's suggestion of a 1% cut, but over time, cuts have been made over & over, for example, to Municipal Maintenance.

Ms. Cottuli stated the FinCom will need to choose carefully what it will support.

Mr. Worthen feels when the budget is presented, the five year plans should also be presented as well. Ms. Cottuli concurred.

B. Liaison assignments.

Ms. Cottuli stated two FinCom liaisons are mandatory. They are for the Capital Planning Committee & the Community Events Committee. Ms. Donahue volunteered to be liaison to the Capital Planning Committee & Ms. Fontes volunteered to be liaison to the Community Events Committee.

Ms. Cottuli stated there should be a FinCom liaison to the School Committee. She stated the issue is the School Committee meets the same night as the FinCom. Mr. Worthen stated the FinCom could appoint two liaisons & these two liaisons could alternate attendance at the School Committee meetings. He stated he is clueless when it comes to the School Dept.'s \$27 million budget. Mr. Cammarano & Ms. Jordan volunteered to be the FinCom's liaison to the School Committee.

The following are a list of other liaisons assigned:

Town Administrator – Ms. Cottuli
BOS, Municipal Maintenance, BOH – Ms. Bronk
Police, EMS – Mr. Worthen

Audit Committee – Mr. Langan
CEDA – Ms. Fontes
Assessor – Mr. Heard

Ms. Cottuli stated any other departments the FinCom needs information from can be asked for by going to the Town Administrator.

C. Review Town Meeting calendar dates/deadlines.

The FinCom reviewed the Town Meeting calendar of dates & deadlines.

Ms. Bronk asked if Ms. Cottuli will be meeting w/ the Town Administrator & the Town Moderator. Ms. Cottuli stated she plans to.

NOTE: Brief discussion ensued re: when the joint meeting w/ the BOS & School Committee will be. Ms. Jordan believes it is slated for August 20th at 6:30 P.M.

The FinCom concurred that after the August 20th meeting, unless necessary, the FinCom will not meet again until September 17th.

D. Review Five-Year Capital Plan document.

Ms. Cottuli stated the Capital Planning Committee has promised to update the FinCom at the very least on a quarterly basis.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Cottuli asked if anyone has been in contact w/ Mr. Tufts. Mr. Worthen stated that Mr. Tufts is currently involved w/ the Gatemen. He stated he will be seeing Mr. Tufts shortly & ask him if he will be returning to the FinCom.

Ms. Cottuli expressed concern re: if Mr. Tufts plans on returning or not.

Brief discussion ensued re: utilizing the Town's email.

VI. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JULY 9, 2014

An error was found in the minutes. This set of minutes will be placed on the next agenda for approval.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2014. It will be a joint meeting w/ the BOS & School Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Bronk moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M. Mr. Langan seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso
Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 9/17/14

Attest: Bonnie Cottuli (KB)
Bonnie Cottuli, Chairman
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Fixed Costs								
Employee Benefits	\$ 9,855.00	18% \$ 11,046.00	20% \$ 12,191.00	22% \$ 13,033.00	22% \$ 14,033.00	23% \$ 15,046.00	24% \$ 16,196.00	25%
County Assessments	\$ 2,043.00	4% \$ 2,403.00	4% \$ 2,824.00	5% \$ 3,135.00	5% \$ 3,480.00	6% \$ 3,862.00	6% \$ 4,287.00	7%
Debt Service	\$ 626.00	1% \$ 759.00	1% \$ 831.00	1% \$ 746.00	1% \$ 630.00	1% \$ 550.00	1% \$ 345.00	1%
Major Fixed costs	\$ 12,524.00	23% \$ 14,208.00	26% \$ 15,846.00	28% \$ 16,914.00	29% \$ 18,143.00	30% \$ 19,458.00	31% \$ 20,828.00	32%
Education								
Schools	\$ 25,260.00	\$ 25,403.00	\$ 25,435.00	\$ 26,121.00	\$ 26,827.00	\$ 27,554.00	\$ 28,300.00	
Buses	\$ 1,341.00	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 1,444.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 1,496.00	\$ 1,523.00	\$ 1,550.00	
Upper Cape	\$ 2,595.00	\$ 2,996.00	\$ 2,747.00	\$ 2,830.00	\$ 2,915.00	\$ 3,002.00	\$ 3,092.00	
Total Education	\$ 29,196.00	\$ 29,875.00	\$ 29,626.00	\$ 30,421.00	\$ 31,238.00	\$ 32,079.00	\$ 32,942.00	50%
Police	\$ 4,943.00	9% \$ 4,373.00	8% \$ 4,453.00	8% \$ 4,536.00	8% \$ 4,621.00	8% \$ 4,707.00	7% \$ 4,804.00	7%
Muni Maintenance	\$ 1,610.00	3% \$ 1,235.00	2% \$ 1,258.00	2% \$ 1,287.00	2% \$ 1,317.00	2% \$ 1,347.00	2% \$ 1,378.00	2%
Everything else	\$ 5,717.00	11% \$ 5,064.00	9% \$ 4,749.00	8% \$ 4,972.00	9% \$ 5,063.00	8% \$ 5,215.00	8% \$ 5,288.00	8%
Total	\$ 53,990.00	\$ 54,755.00	\$ 55,932.00	\$ 58,130.00	\$ 60,382.00	\$ 62,806.00	\$ 65,240.00	
Shortfall/ % of budget	\$ 146.00	\$ (174.00)	\$ -	\$ 605.00	1% \$ 1,358.00	2% \$ 2,226.00	4% \$ 3,045.00	5% \$ -
Cumulative Shortfall		\$ (28.00)	\$ (28.00)	\$ 577.00	\$ 1,935.00	\$ 4,161.00	\$ 7,206.00	
INCOME								
Property Taxes	\$ 32,635.00	61% \$ 33,899.00	62% \$ 35,097.00	63% \$ 36,341.00	63% \$ 37,636.00	64% \$ 38,982.00	64% \$ 40,382.00	65%
Excise Tax	\$ 2,130.00	4% \$ 2,130.00	4% \$ 2,130.00	4% \$ 2,151.00	4% \$ 2,172.00	4% \$ 2,194.00	4% \$ 2,216.00	4%
Total Taxes	\$ 34,765.00	65% \$ 36,029.00	66% \$ 37,227.00	67% \$ 38,492.00	67% \$ 39,808.00	67% \$ 41,176.00	68% \$ 42,598.00	68%
School Aid	\$ 12,531.00	23% \$ 12,684.00	23% \$ 12,694.00	23% \$ 12,755.00	22% \$ 12,822.00	22% \$ 12,887.00	21% \$ 12,952.00	21%
Sub General Government Aid	\$ 2,041.00	4% \$ 2,064.00	4% \$ 2,085.00	4% \$ 2,136.00	4% \$ 2,167.00	4% \$ 2,200.00	4% \$ 2,233.00	4%
Enterprise Fee	\$ 513.00	1% \$ 583.00	1% \$ 823.00	1% \$ 872.00	2% \$ 925.00	2% \$ 980.00	2% \$ 1,039.00	2%
Government aid	\$ 15,085.00	28% \$ 15,331.00	28% \$ 15,602.00	28% \$ 15,763.00	27% \$ 15,914.00	27% \$ 16,067.00	27% \$ 16,224.00	26%
Fees etc	\$ 3,994.00	7% \$ 3,569.00	6% \$ 3,103.00	6% \$ 3,270.00	6% \$ 3,302.00	6% \$ 3,337.00	6% \$ 3,373.00	5%
Total Income	\$ 53,844.00	\$ 54,929.00	\$ 55,932.00	\$ 57,525.00	\$ 59,024.00	\$ 60,580.00	\$ 62,195.00	

8/13/14

Comparison Wareham to USA Wareham to Massachusetts

		Per capita	Median	Median	Population	Number of	People
		income	household	family		households	per
			income	income			Household
United States		\$27,915	\$52,762	\$64,293	306,603,772	114,761,359	2.67
Massachusetts	Sum of Town Averages	\$37,012	\$77,561	\$92,749	18589	7203	2.62
	Sum of Town Medians	\$34,183	\$74,043	\$87,566	10148	3733	2.59
Wareham	Town	\$28,066	\$52,556	\$64,891	21,673	9,176	2.36
	Comparison to Mass average	76%	68%	70%	117%	127%	90%
	Comparison to Mass median	82%	71%	74%	214%	246%	91%
	Rank in Mass for category	303	308	308	87	75	294