

May 1, 2013

A joint meeting of the Wareham School Committee and Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Library. Present were Rhonda Veugen Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, and Michael Flaherty as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

Chair Veugen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the Board of Selectmen posted their meeting for 6:30 p.m. Chair Veugen recessed the meeting until 6:30 p.m.

Chair Teitelbaum called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order with roll call:
Present Board of Selectmen: Patrick Tropeano, Judy Whiteside, Alan Slavin, Peter Teitelbaum, Steve Holmes and Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator.

Chair Veugen opened meeting of the School Committee.

FY'14 Budget Discussion

Chair Veugen stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss closing the budget gap and go into Town Meeting with support by both boards.

Chair Teitelbaum stated that both boards are here tonight due to the efforts of Mr. Heath at the last joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he had met with Mr. Sullivan twice to discuss the town budget for FY'14. He then distributed two documents:

#1 historical look from 2011 through anticipated 2014 of various costs – inkind; net school spending appropriation; non net school spending(transportation) - Total town spending for these same years to obtain a % of spending for the Wareham Public Schools which is 62%.

#2 deficit reduction percentages by amount of spending

Deficit is \$1,169,094 at a split of 62% \$724,838 schools and at 38% \$444,255 town. If we split the difference on how Mr. Sullivan came up with his percentages it would be School 63.5% and Town 36.5%.

(Mr. Holmes entered meeting 6:39 p.m.)

Mr. Sullivan stated that the percentage difference was UCCVTHS, even though its education, so he took this amount out of the total budget making the split 65%/35%. FY13 Projected General Government is \$10,264,110 and for FY14 is \$10,164,118.

Mr. Swett rejected Dr. Rabinovitch's proposal as a distortion of the true cost of public education without Chapter 70 aid.

There was discussion on aid and reimbursement going to the town, the dollar amount to cut, the process of setting priorities for revenues must start after FY14 budget is approved, and looking at non-net school cut first.

It was noted that the Superintendent with the Transportation Manager recommended a proposal, which does not solve the problem with the fleet, but provides more service than the state requires. This proposal was recommended by the Transportation Action Committee but not voted on by the School Committee.

How the percentages were calculated is not agreed upon and is 3 points apart.

The School Committee agenda stated the purpose of the meeting as: FY'14 Budget Discussion - town priorities and potential cuts.

Mr. Sullivan stated that based on a split of 65% /35% there would be loss in services to library; COA; inspectional services; administration; municipal maintenance; and 3 full-time employees in police department.

The Town Administrator is in support of textbooks and technology for schools by borrowing.

Further discussion by board members on the process of the town budget side, 1/3 of the full time residents are fully impacted by the quality of education we provide and impacting students who will pay the rest of their lives, if no police impact 100% of our citizens; regionalization within town departments, creative ideas to share resources.

Chair Veugen suggested a joint meeting on 5/15/13 to allow each board to discuss the proposals and come back with a vote and give the budget to the Finance Committee for input.

Mr. Holmes suggested the boards come back with two slides – one from the Superintendent and one from the Town Administrator - with what happens with a split of 63.5%/36.5%.

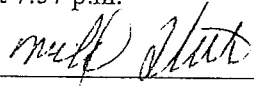
It was agreed to hold a joint meeting next week – May 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the WMS Library for the purposes of discussing the FY'14 cuts in the budget with possible votes on the percentages. Both boards were polled and there was consensus.

Mr. Fontes moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its meeting – Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

#1 Historical spending 2011 through budgeted 2014

#2 Deficit Reduction Percentages by amount of spending

5.1.13 Budget for Joint School Committee & Board of Selectmen Meeting