

Town of Wayland
Finance Committee
Meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2009
Minutes

Attendees: Sam Peper, Susan Pope, Cherry Karlson, Bob Lentz, Rich Stack (7:15) and Dave Gutschenritter (7:20)

Absent: John Bladon, Mike DiPietro(Finance Director)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Minutes: We reviewed three sets of minutes.
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009 as amended.
Vote: 4-0.
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 23, 2009 as amended.
Vote: 3-0-1 (Lentz).
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 23, 2009 executive session as amended. Vote: 3-0-1 (Lentz).
4. FY10 Operating Budget: Discussed budget to prepare for ATM.
 - a. Article 8: Septage. Motion will be made to approve the budget, but only to fund it if an inter-municipal agreement with Sudbury is not signed before July 1. Now, Wayland bills and Sudbury collects; Sudbury offered to handle both accounting aspects to achieve a savings of approximately \$8000.
 - b. Discussion continued later.
5. ATM Article 27, York Road: Dave presented an update and revised comments on this article. Repairs have been made to the road and the BoRC subsequently voted 5-0 to approve the layout for acceptance by town meeting. Resident Kim Cook presented four arguments against the article.
 - a. The developer owes \$13,000 in back taxes on the roadway; these should be collected before we accept the road.
 - b. Process is being circumvented. Typically the developer requests the road be accepted by the town. In this case, the BoS is taking action on behalf of citizens.
 - c. The estimate for repairs to the road have changed and been significantly lowered. Is the roadway in good shape?
 - d. Regarding the Planning Board decision to accept the subdivision – is everything as it should be?

Following further discussion of these points and particularly the back taxes, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of ATM article 27. Vote: 5-0-1 (Stack).

Further discussion of tax title land, accuracy of billings, delinquent taxes and follow-up questions occurred. Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the vote on ATM article 27. Following discussion, the motion to reconsider was tabled.

6. FY10 Operating Budget, continued: FinCom continued to walk through the budget preparing for ATM. Additional information on the Regional Vocational School budget was available estimating the FY10 expense at \$421,426. Motion was made and seconded to amend the budget by reducing line 45, Regional Vocational Schools, by \$78,574 to a new request of \$41,426, and for a grand total budget revised to \$62,019,837. This information will be presented in the errata sheet for ATM. FinCom preference is to reduce the amount of free cash being used to balance the budget.

The revised budget should be posted to the website in advance of Monday's first session of annual town meeting.

7. FinCom verbal budget report: Sam outlined his planned comments on the budget. All were in agreement with tone and content.
8. York Road, continued: FinCom discussed the issue of back taxes with town counsel, Mark Lanza. He clarified the MGL governing the roadway and explained that the taxes were billed in error to the developer. Therefore, there are no back taxes owed on the roadway. Dave will adjust the FinCom comments to reflect this information.
9. FinCom vacancy: The committee thanked Sue Pope for her service on FinCom and wished her well returning to the BoS. One vacancy will need to be posted and filled.
10. Warrant: FinCom reviewed the entire ATM and STM warrant to confirm article assignments, identify needed information and prepare for anticipated questions.
11. Other Business: Two follow-up items were noted.
 - a. Charter schools: research how best to report this expense to the taxpayers. Presently, the state nets it out of our cherry sheet receivables and it does not show as a budget item on either the town or school budget.
 - b. Roadways: follow to correct the York Road tax billings and to identify and clear, as appropriate, all taxes being billed for roadways.

Next meeting: April 13, 2009 at 6:45pm – ATM. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Cherry Karlson