

Town of Wayland
Finance Committee
Meeting – January 20, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Sam Peper
Cherry Karlson
John Bladon
Bob Lentz
Sue Pope
Richard Stack
Dave Gutschenritter

Michael DiPietro (Finance Director)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm
2. Public Comment: No public comment.
3. **Motion:** Approved Minutes of 1/12/09 as amended. Vote: 6-0-1
4. 2010 budget hearings:
 - a. Board of Health: Steve Calichmen (Department Head) and members of the Board of Health presented the BOH budget.
 - i. On guideline, except:
 1. ½ time position is still included in their budget but these monies are being transferred to the DPW budget. This was a position that was supporting both the landfill and BOH operations. BOH presented justification that these hours are needed by the BOH and requested that the hours be reinstated to their budget. Fincom recommended that they 1) discuss with Fred Turkington and negotiate the split of the hours with Fred. Or, 2) make a request to the Personnel Board for the additional position. Fincom would only consider the request after it has been vetted with the Personnel Board.
 2. School nurse budget includes \$8,000 additional to the 2009 budget. This restores some of the money lost when the schools reconfigured to 2 ½ elementary schools. The BOH believes they need the time to handle peak loads and substitution nursing when the full-time nurses are out.
 - b. Board of Health – Landfill Operations: George Lewis, Landfill Superintendent, Steve Calichmen, and BOH presented the budget.
 - i. Discussed that landfill sticker price went to \$320 in FY09 vs. \$245 in FY08. BOH expressed concern that this increase has caused many users

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to not use the transfer station. BOH requested that Fincom allow the following to reduce the cost of stickers:

1. allocation to town operations for landfill disposal. Fincom pointed out this is already being done and the “market rate” equivalent is already being reduced from their budget. Fincom suggested that they re-look at the “market rate” value for future years.
 2. get revenue credit for recyclable revenue generated by the landfill. Fincom pointed out that they already get full credit for this revenue and sticker price already benefits from this revenue.
 3. Not be required to cover the \$50,000 annual set aside for capping. Fincom pointed out that this is a state requirement until the capping is completed and that the landfill operations must cover this cost.
- ii. Discussed that the landfill will be moving to a “Pay As You Throw” program as of July 1.
 - iii. Landfill capital was not discussed. This will be discussed in the presentation by John Moynihan, Town Facilities Manager.
5. Motion: to reappoint Eric Sheffels as the Fincom representative to the High School Building Committee. Approved 7 to 0.
6. Public Comment: Michael Lowry commented about the landfill budget saying he thinks the capping costs should be a town expense vs. a landfill expense so that the capping cost not be borne by landfill users in the sticker price.
7. Budget Hearing with the School Committee (at the School Committee Meeting):
- a. Gary Burton, Superintendent and School Committee presented the Budget.
 - b. Capital Budget:
 - i. Lea Anderson, Chair of the High School Building Committee presented the Capital Request for design fees for the new high school and the status of the project through the MSBA.
 1. Design fees are estimated at \$1.2 million. The State will pay 40% (or \$480,000) and the balance \$720,000 will be borne by the Town. \$300,000 of this amount has previously been approved at the 2007 Town Meeting leaving a balance of \$420,000.
 2. Fincom pointed out that this will require a debt exclusion ballot question plus an article at town meeting. It was agreed that the article and authorization to expend the funds will be all subject to the MSBA’s approval of the design phase of the project.
 - ii. Leisha Simon, Director of Technology and Assessment presented the Technology capital request of \$750,000. Discussed that the amount includes four elements: 1) continued replacement of equipment over 5

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- years old; 2) expenditures for network upgrades and data center improvements required to support the growing use of computers, web applications in classrooms, and the infrastructure to support the 21st Century program (below). And two new programs: the 1:1 program, which is providing computers for each teacher; and the 21st Century program designed around improving the use of technology in the learning experience of students.
- iii. Other capital includes modular classrooms for the high school and \$175,000 in building repairs.
 - iv. Fincom requested that a prioritized list be presented to the Fincom by January 29th.
- c. Operating budget: Barb Fletcher made a presentation of the operating budget and the drivers causing the changes between 2009 and 2010.
- i. Operating budget increasing by \$1.4 million (before increases in offsets) made up of: 1) \$448,000 in contracted pay increases net of exchanges, lane changes and retirements; 2) \$546,000 for Special Education, which are State Mandated costs; and \$423,000 related primarily to utility increases, new bus transportation contract, and building maintenance.
 - ii. Offsets are being increased by \$72,000 primarily by charging for bus service.
 - iii. Net budget increase of \$1,340,000, which is within guideline.
 - iv. Marlene Dodyk, SPED director provided explanations to the increases in special education costs.
- d. Discussed the potential impact on budgets once the Governor presents the State budget and the impact on State aid. School Committee agreed to send final budget to Fincom by Jan. 29.

8. Meeting adjourned: 10:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Bob Lentz