



TOWN OF WAYLAND

41 COCHITUATE ROAD
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

Finance Committee
John Bladon
Cherry C. Karlson
Paul Grasso
Dave Gutschenritter
Robert L. Lentz
Sam H. Peper
Richard M. Stack

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes December 14, 2009

The Finance Committee Meeting was called at 7:05PM in the Large Hearing Room. The session began with the presentation to the public of the Long Range Plan (LRP) until 8:10PM when the Finance Committee reconvened for regular session.

Attendance: R. Stack, C. Karlson, P. Grasso, S. Peper, J. Bladon,

Absent: D. Gutschenritter, B. Lentz

Also present: Finance Director/Town Accountant, M. DiPietro

Sam Peper opened the meeting with a presentation of the Long Range Plan (posted online). The Finance Committee emphasized the importance for LRP cost savings needed for the FY12 budget; the need to limit/stage capital expenditures to minimize debt, and the need for all boards to support/deliver immediate cost savings to support this process.

1. Long Range Plan Public Comments:

- Alan Reiss (Old Connecticut Path) suggested that Wayland benchmark Special Education (SPED) costs /per capita across peer towns and work with the School Committee to minimize SPED costs.
- Tom Sciacca (Rolling Lane) commented on the importance of technology to address school costs, improve productivity, and the need to approve the \$750K capital request from the schools. Cherry noted the \$750K was a placeholder amount and not a budget request.
- Bill Sterling (Morse Road) commented that the LRP was not in compliance with the 2004 Master Plan with regard to commercial businesses. Mr. Sterling doubted that additional commercial business could generate significant revenue. Sam commented that the plan should stimulate conversation on alternatives and should be considered. Cherry commented that our goals are to maximize revenue from existing commercial space and this is not being done.
- Anette Lewis (Claypit Hill Road) commented that the permitting process is defined and questioned the Finance Committee role in permitting. Cherry commented that guidance should be given on process optimization across boards/groups to facilitate permitting processes. Ms. Lewis also commented that contracts/salaries need to be reviewed.
- Malcolm Astley (Boston Post Road) commented that the economic development committee/council proposal is an excellent idea. He also questioned how council discussion will be balanced with preserving qualities of the Town.
- Molly Upton (Bayfield Road) suggested that we change phone systems to save money. Ms Upton also commented that Sudbury has good public relations (PR). Wayland needs a PR committee to promote the good things about the Town.
- Peter Gossels (Hampshire Road) commented that he has done a lot of SPED litigation and SPED is not a problem to be solved by the Finance Committee. SPED is mandated by the

state with parents appealing any decisions not in support of their children. Cherry commented that SPED costs are not totally funded by the state.

- Malcolm Astley (Boston Post Road) – asked about the recommended action plan for SPED at state level. Cherry commented that suburban coalition, state rep etc need to work with Wayland on action steps.
- Jennifer Steele questioned if how the sale of land has been looked at and does this mean put it back on tax roles. Cherry commented that sales of land could be used as an offset (one time cash benefit) to minimize debt. Ms Steele also questioned how land is valued for future sale. Fred Turkington commented that land is reviewed for town use prior to sale and the Town sold \$700K in 2007.
- Joe Nolan offered thanks for the Finance Committee’s LRP work.

The Finance Committee took a break before convening for regular meeting at 8:10PM.

2. Regular Session Public Comments:

- Anette Lewis (Claypit Hill Road) – commented that the 2006 warrant town center information was not presented correctly. Information did not cover one parcel of land and the town center agreements (development agreement) “did not run with the land”. Ms. Lewis also stated that at the 2009 meeting, incorrect financial information was presented. She suggested better procedures to validate numbers. Sam agreed and stated a more thorough vetting process has been put in place.
 - Molly Upton (Bayfield Road) asked for the plan for future capital. Cherry replied that our plan is reliant upon revenue and savings to be obtained prior to confirming what capital is planned/budgeted. Sam commented that our plan is printed in the warrant, but this is updated and vetted on an annual basis.
3. **Minuteman Tech Letter from Belmont** - Discussion with Sam/Gary Burton and Barb Fletcher regarding a letter received from Belmont and resolution at their town meeting addressing the decreasing number of students, increasing costs and increasing assessments. Belmont is looking for a drop in per pupil assessment from Minuteman. Gary commented that Wayland agreed years ago to fund the Minuteman program. Wayland is billed in arrears. Wayland pays per child, plus any special needs. Gary commented that Minuteman costs are excessive, but thought that Wayland can not vote to get out of the agreement. Rich commented that Minuteman costs do not hit the school budget and Minuteman costs are in the town side of the budget. Sam to follow-up with Minuteman.
4. **Personnel Board and Assessor Budget Memo** – A senior clerk is to be eliminated. The proposed new full time position (covering work now done by a contract person) will be funded by elimination of senior clerk. Cherry commented that budgets should reflect approval of Personnel Board. Request will be reflected in budget and will be budget neutral as compared to prior year.
5. **Council on Aging Memo** – Change in salaries, budget neutral; funding from transportation savings. Reassignment of salary monies; no benefits involved. Request will be reflected in budget and will be budget neutral as compared to prior year.
6. **Motion:** Approved minutes of regular session 11/30/09. Vote: 5-0.
7. **Capital Requests** – Sam asked Michael DiPietro to get more information on major capital requests that will be distributed to the Finance Committee before meeting on January 11.

Finance Committee adjourned for the evening at 9:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Stack