

Town of Wayland  
Finance Committee  
Meeting – Monday, February 9, 2009  
Minutes

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Attendees: Sam Peper, Susan Pope, Rich Stack, John Bladon, Cherry Karlson, Bob Lentz, Dave Gutschenritter, Mike DiPietro (Finance Director)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Minutes of the 1/29/09 meeting were approved. Vote 6-0-1 (Gutschenritter)
4. Discussion of the following Annual Town Meeting (ATM) articles ensued:
  - a. Article # 7 Wastewater Management District Budget. Discussion centered around the impact this article would have on the private residences within the district, the anticipated rate increase in 2010, and that this budget relies solely on fees (no budgeted use of retained earnings). Finance Committee recommended approval by a vote of 7-0.
  - b. Article # 9 Pay Previous Fiscal Year Unpaid Bills. As of this meeting, there are no previous fiscal year unpaid bills. No action taken on this article.
  - c. Article #10 Accept Law Increasing Real Estate Tax Exemption Amounts. Additional information was requested to complete the article (# of taxpayers, confirm which fiscal year is referenced). Also discussed was the possibility that this article may be covered under Article 33. No action taken on this article.
  - d. Article #16 Make Certain Town Officials Ex-Officio Town Meeting Members. After a brief discussion of the merits of the article (streamlining Annual Town Meeting) Finance Committee recommended approval by a vote of 7-0.

At 7:30 PM Sam Peper left the meeting to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting

- e. Article # 17 Change Date That Elected Town Officials Take Office. Discussion centered around the benefits of having elected officials serve through the Annual Town Meeting rather than leaving office or taking office just before Annual Town Meeting. Finance Committee recommended approval by a vote of 6-0.
- f. Article # 31 Increase Fine for Tobacco Violations. Article deferred to next meeting
- g. Article # 32 Fines for Improper Dumping of Solid Waste at the Town Landfill/Transfer Station. Following a very brief discussion of the fines to be levied, the Finance Committee recommended approval by a vote of 6-0.

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At 7:55 PM Sam Peper returned from the Board of Selectmen meeting

- h. Article # 39 Incorporate Full List and Measure in Capital Plan. Bob Lentz reviewed the discussion that took place at the Board of Assessors meeting held prior to this meeting. The discussion centered on the challenges created by the very low numbers of homeowners who are willing to allow an Assessor into their home to do an inspection. This makes it difficult to verify/update town records and improve the overall assessment process. Bob reviewed the results of the home inspections done to date which identified discrepancies ranging from very minor to more substantial. The results support the need to undertake a more complete round of home inspections. It was noted that the requested \$200,000 is included in the FY 2010 Capital Budget and therefore the possibility exists that this article may be passed over if the FY 2010 Capital Budget is approved. Following the discussion, the Finance Committee recommended approval by a vote of 7-0.
- i. Article # 19 Sell Town Owned Land on Dudley Road. The article was deferred to the next meeting.
- j. Article # 23 Increase Demand Charge for Delinquent Taxes. Discussion on this article centered on the arguments both in favor and against as well as how the proposed charged compares to similar charges in neighboring communities. It was noted that this article was presented at November 2008 special town meeting. Finance Committee recommends approval by a vote of 7-0.
- k. Article # 28 Amendment of Article 23 – Mixed Use Overlay District. Discussion centered on the question of pharmacies with or without drive up windows. Subsequent to the meeting it was clarified that while technically more than one pharmacy was allowed, only one could have a drive up window. Finance committee recommended approval by a vote of 7-0.
- l. Article # 6 Wayland Sudbury Septage Treatment Facility Budget. The article was deferred to the next meeting.
- m. Article # 29 Amendment of Article 24 – Cochituate Village Overlay District. Rich Stack provided some background information and the similarity to the town center historic district was noted. Questions were raised concerning the process used to prepare the information and to what degree had all affected residents been contacted concerning this proposal. The article was deferred to a future meeting.

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5. Other Business – Louis Jurist joined the meeting to update the committee on recent developments concerning the high school building project. The MSBA enrollment number came in at 900 students which is slightly lower than the figure that the high school building committee had been using. The impact of this lower enrollment figure is that it will likely change the amount of money that will be requested at ATM. Louis will report back to the committee when more information is known.

Based on this information, the Finance Committee instructed Mike DiPietro to speak to the Public Buildings Director for possible re-prioritization of capital projects. Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Next meeting: February 17, 2009 at 7:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Submitted by:

Dave Gutschenritter