



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 January 25, 2010

Attendance: D. Gutschenritter, C. Karlson, P. Grasso, S. Peper, B. Lentz, J. Bladon

Absent: R. Stack

Also present: Finance Director, M. DiPietro

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM in the School Committee Room.

1. **Operating Budget Working Session: school budget**

Barb Fletcher presented a review of the school budget, including budget and enrollment trends, major changes, peer comparisons and future efforts for efficiencies/consolidations plans. The presentation is available on the School Committee's website.

Barb then answered all questions which had been forwarded to her, and FinCom asked other questions. Topics included funding of the technology director position, number of bus routes, additional cost of busing due to the high school project, allocation of resources and concentration thereof amongst the elementary schools, number of TAs dedicated to SPED at Claypit and Happy Hollow, the nature of the offsets related to fee based programs and the literacy institute, and SPED tuitions and transportation costs.

General conversation followed pertaining to the FinCom's long range plan. The SC anticipates starting discussion of the FY12 budget when the FY11 budget is completed. Key budget metrics for controlling costs are class size, personnel costs (number of staff and salary) and the breadth of program (offerings, electives). Changes that will be discussed and have potential for implementation and budgetary impact in FY12 include school choice, naming rights, grants, fundraising for technology, consolidations for anticipated continued declining enrollment and a review/consolidation of administrative functions.

Finally, we discussed a clarification of custodial costs (hauling and septic charges), consideration of the relocation of the Children's Way program for educational programming and town space needs, and METCO funding. FinCom asked questions regarding the impact of the state's recently passed Education Bill.

2. **Suburban Coalition**

Malcolm Astley outlined the role of the Suburban Coalition and asked for FinCom input on the three priorities: planning for healthcare costs, relief from state mandates and revenue sources other than the property tax. There is a meeting on Feb 4th to discuss these items and FinCom has been invited to send a rep.

At 8:15, the FinCom moved to the Small Conference Room on the second floor to continue their meeting.

3. **FY11 Capital Budget**

Mike DiPietro updated us on outstanding items:

- **Landfill capping:** He met with Don Ouellette, and they agreed that the approximately \$350,000 in the capping account can be applied to the project. The net amount to be financed is \$850,000. It is anticipated that ongoing monitoring costs will be similar to those already carried in the operating budget.
- **Greenways field development:** The \$80,000 is for feasibility and preliminary schematic designs – to take the project to bid stage. Sam will follow up with Nancy McShea. The consensus was that we would like to know the suggestions of the Field Use Master Plan completed this month and to understand the potential revenues and costs associated with development and maintenance before including these funds in the capital budget.
- **Field improvements:** There was concern that the Alpine field is slated for field improvements and also identified by the SC as a parcel for potential sale to offset capital costs.
- **SC technology:** The SC was discussing this at their meeting and will coordinate with Paul. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

4. **FinCom Schedule:** Our tentative meeting schedule is Feb 1 (ATM hearing, finalize budgets), Feb 8 (assign articles, vote budgets) and Feb 22 (budget presentations). Followed on March 1 by the Debt Exclusion hearing with the BoS. Sam will confirm these dates with us.
5. **Housing Authority:** Cherry Karlson reported that Susan Weinstein, chair of the Wayland Housing Authority, contacted her to understand FinCom's position re: affordable housing. FinCom agreed that affordable housing was not mutually exclusive with the long range plan, expressed concern if commercial land was to be taken for affordable housing, and understood that the state goal of 10% affordable housing stock is not realistic for Wayland to achieve given available land and number of units required. Cherry will follow-up.
6. **Public Comment:** Betty Salzberg commented on 40B developments and that their configuration determines the number of children they may bring to the community.
7. **Minutes:** The minutes of January 19th were reviewed. Motion and second to approve the minutes of January 11th. Vote: 6-0.
8. **Executive Session:** At 8:45pm, a motion was made and seconded to enter executive session as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraph three, for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining because a public discussion of these matters will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town. FinCom will return to open session for the purposes of adjourning. A role call vote was taken.

Peper: Yes

Lentz: Yes

Gutschenritter: Yes

Grasso: Yes

Karlson: Yes

Bladon: Yes

Also in attendance, Mike DiPietro.

The FinCom returned to open session at 9:35pm and adjourned for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherry Karlson