



Town of Wayland Massachusetts

Finance Committee

Paul Grasso
Thomas Greenaway
David J. Gutschenritter
Cherry C. Karlson (Chair)
Sam H. Peper
Richard M. Stack
Bill Steinberg

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes February 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM at the Wayland town building when a quorum was present.

Attendance: B. Steinberg, S.Peper, C. Karlson, T. Greenaway (7:25PM), D. Gutschenritter, P. Grasso, R. Stack. Also attending: Mike DiPietro, Finance Director.

Presentation of Draft Operating Budget

Public Comment:

Margo Melnicove, Lakeshore Drive, asked if steps/lanes, utilities and the allowance for SPED were included in the tax neutral school budget. She also asked how much principal and interest would be dropping for debt borrowings under the proposed capital budget. The Finance Director advised her it would be approximately \$20 per household.

Anette Lewis, ClayPit Hill Road, asked how much debt would be dropping as a gross number. The Finance Director advised her it would be approximately \$250,000. Ms. Lewis also asked where on the town's website are the CIP forms. The Finance Director advised her they are under the finance departments website under capital improvement program. Ms. Lewis also commented that we have spent too much on the town safety building. She was advised that the million-dollar appropriation request in this year's budget is required to move the utilities from the basement to first floor or roof.. Ms. Lewis also commented on the need to clean catch basins and the need for school building repairs. She also made a request to the Finance Director to list open items previously appropriated under the capital budget but not yet spent. Ms. Lewis also questions why Children's Way should not pay for parking lot repairs at the Town Building. A member from the school committee replied that previous parking lot repairs paid for by the children's way organization were paid to the town in lieu of rent. Ms. Lewis also questioned why the \$50,000 for fireboxes was not going to be paid for by the town center developer. Ms. Lewis was told that this expenditure is not town center related. Ms. Lewis also questioned why we need to spend \$250,000 additional expenditures to design the department of public works building when we already spend money under previous appropriation.

Don Ouellette, Dir. of Department of Public Works responded that the vacuum truck that has been requested in the capital budget will allow the town to clean catch basins twice per year as required under storm water regulations. He also noted that the town of Natick has three vacuum trucks.

Molly Upton, Bayfield Road, asked if we are giving the schools a break by holding the cost-of-living increase in the unclassified expense on the town side. The Chairman of the Finance Committee responded that they are held in unclassified until collective bargaining unit's agreements are settled.

Tom Sciacca, Rolling Lane, discussed Wayland school technology and also the appropriation request for new fields at the middle school.

Linda Segal, Aqueduct Road, asked at what point during the CIP process a building committee would be appointed for the department of public works project. The Finance Chairman noted that it was not within the authority of the Finance Committee to appoint a building committee. That responsibility is within the authority of the Selectman. Ms. Segal asked how much money has the town gotten from FEMA. The Finance Director responded that we expect to be eligible for \$600,000 and have gotten \$200,000 from FEMA so far. Ms. Segal also commented on the Route 27/30 water main upgrades and the funding and replacement of water mains using MBTE settlement dollars.

Margo Melnicove, Lakeshore Drive, asked what was in the \$350,000 appropriation request for technology for the schools. She was told that the technology plan is on the School Committee website. Ms. Melnicove asked what percentage of the town's budget covers school expenditures. The Finance Committee Chairman responded that it is approximately 70% depending upon debt service in a given year. Ms. Melnicove questions why debt service is not included in the school budget. A member of the Finance Committee responded that the state requires separate reporting of debt and debt service to ensure that Wayland total debt (borrowing) is limited/no greater than 5% of total equalized valuation.

At 8:25pm the presentation was completed; public comment was closed and the regular meeting was called to order.

Motion: Approved minutes of regular session 01/18/11. Vote: 4-0-3.

Motion: Approved operating budget - general fund of \$68,780,000 & enterprise fund of \$4,000,000. Vote 7-0.

The Finance Committee discussed the capital budget requested appropriation of \$250,000 by the Department of Public Works. While there was not a motion by the finance committee to cut this appropriation, there was a general sense of the meeting to reduce the request to \$50,000 for this expenditure which is more in line with the prior DPW garage study expenditure.

The \$250,000 appropriation request by the Department of Public Works was reduced to \$50,000. If new information becomes available, any change to this appropriation would have to occur prior to March 1.

The finance committee also discussed the use of MTBE revenues to fund the water department budget. It was noted by one member of the committee that perhaps these revenue dollars should be reserved for possible future environmental remediation by the town. The committee also discussed the fact that removal of MBTE revenues from free cash would raise taxes on residents in a future year because these dollars would not be available to avoid the need for an override.

Motion: Approved capital budget of \$4,615,000. Vote: 7-0.

- Cash Capital \$325,000
- Free Cash – No Impact on Tax Levy \$1,000,000
- Non-Exempt Capital (Operating) \$1,750,000
- Exempt Capital (Debt Exclusion) \$880,000
- DPW Department (Water) – No Impact on Tax Levy \$660,000

The Finance Committee discussed the pros and cons of a menu or single debt exclusion ballot question.

Motion: A motion was made to approve a single debt exclusion question. Vote 5-2-0.

Executive Session: At 10:20 PM a motion was made by C. Karlson and seconded to enter executive session as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining because a discussion of these matters in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town. A roll call vote was taken.

- Grasso: Yes
- Greenaway: Yes
- Karlson: Yes
- Peper: Yes
- Stack: Yes
- Steinberg: Yes
- D. Gutschenritter Yes.

At 11:46 PM the Finance Committee returned to regular session. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Stack