



# Town of Wayland Massachusetts

## **Finance Committee**

Nancy Funkhouser  
Thomas Greenaway  
David J. Gutschenritter  
Cherry C. Karlson  
Steve Lesser  
Carol Martin  
Bill Steinberg (Chair)

## **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, December 10, 2012**

Attendance: C. Karlson, B. Steinberg (Chair), T. Greenaway, C. Martin, D. Gutschenritter and N. Funkhouser.

Absent: Steve Lesser

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM in the School Committee Conference Room of the Wayland Town building.

### **II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **III. Discussion regarding the tax rate for residential vs. commercial/industrial properties in Wayland for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors and other items in preparation for the meeting with the Board of Assessors at 8:00 PM.**

There was a general discussion of the impact of a split tax rate of commercial/industrial properties vs. the rate for residential properties using the Assessor's presentation and data as background. The two major issues of concern by instituting a split tax rate at this time were (1) that a small change in the residential tax rate would cause a significant change in the commercial tax rate; and that (2) members felt that the Town should encourage the growth of commercial properties in the Town, especially given the current development and lease-up of the Town Center project, and that a decrease in the residential rate with a corresponding increase in the commercial rate could have a detrimental impact upon commercial property.

### **IV. Discussion of the process of constructing the budget in January. Consideration of level service budgets and those with proposed reductions; meetings with departments; etc.**

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming operating and capital budget discussions to be held by the Finance Committee in January.

## **V. Chairman's Update**

There was a brief discussion of the schedule for FinCom meetings in January and February, concluding that Thursdays would work better than Wednesdays for some meetings during that period. The chair informed the board that resident George Harris had sent a letter indicating that there had not yet been an answer to his previous requests. The chair indicated that a response had been sent to the Attorney General's office regarding the matter and that we would await a response to that letter. The chair also informed members that he had spoken with Susan Wagner of the Wayland Town Crier to inform her that a report by the Wayland Voter's Network that the Finance Committee had taken a position that in lieu of developing a new DPW building that department should rent one was inaccurate reporting by the Wayland Voter's Network.

## **VI. Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the Finance Committee meeting of November 3, 2012 and November 26, 2012 were submitted for approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve both as amended. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

## **VII. Joint Session With Board Assessors and the Board of Selectmen regarding the tax recapitulation sheet, consideration of a split tax rate and related items.**

The Board of Assessors made a presentation of the tax recapitulation sheet and discussed the pros and cons of a split tax rate. The chair, on behalf of a consensus of the members of the Finance Committee, informed attendees that the Finance Committee did not currently favor a split tax rate, for the reasons stated in item III above.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Steinberg

Documents:

Assessor's presentation available online

[http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA\\_TownNews/017F433D-000F8513](http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_TownNews/017F433D-000F8513)