



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 January 14, 2013

Attendance: B. Steinberg (Chair), C. Karlson, D. Gutschenritter (7:20), C. Martin, T. Greenaway, S. Lesser, N. Funkhouser

The meeting was called to order in the Town Building, COA meeting area at 7:00 pm when a quorum was available. B. Steinberg announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCam.

1. **Review of the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2014 - meetings with various Town Departments.** This item was taken out of order to accommodate travel schedules.

- a. Assessors: Ellen Brideau and Bruce Cummings gave a budget overview outlining overall cost reductions and use of professional services. Questions touched on overlay amount, training and the suggestion that we review Wayland's overlay amounts compared to other communities.

2. **Public Comment:**

- Louis Jurist, Sears Road, reminded members of the committee that at ATM last year the decision of the voters to rebate free cash was for a temporary lowering of cash with no effects on services and budgets and the Finance Committee, at that time, indicated that tax rates would go up after the one year rebate. Jurist indicated that the matter was approved without significant opposition based on the understanding that it was a one time occurrence and implored the FC to accept the BOS and SC budgets as recommended.
- Linda Segal, Aqueduct Road, spoke about the Danforth mitigation package and recalled that in 2003 the Finance Committee supported two warrant articles that led to the Framingham litigation. With respect to item #9 (handout) Ms. Segal indicated that no Town Boards have been consulted yet and the public record has not been reviewed by Wayland. She believes the value of the intersection is \$150K more than represented by the Town of Framingham.
- Annette Lewis, Claypit Hill Road, requested that the FinCom make sure there is no excess in this year's budget.

D. Gutschenritter joined the meeting.

3. **FinCom Comment on Public Comment:** None.

- 4. Review of the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2014 - meetings with various Town Departments.** Fred Turkington and John Senchyshyn presented these budgets. F. Turkington thanked J. Senchyshyn for his work on putting the budget together in his role as Acting Finance Director.
- A. Town Office: Amounts shown in 2012 Actual results reflect labor contract amounts and steps as well as unsettled contract amounts that were approved at TM that were held in Reserve for Salary Settlement and transferred over.
 - B. Proposed salary increases include hiring a Financial Analyst as approved at last year's ATM. Further assessment on this issue is warranted once a new Director is in place.
 - C. Finance: discussion about whether to include the cost of covering meeting minutes of approximately \$5K.
 - D. Treasurer's Office: Bond sale will be in a few weeks. There is a potential to refinance some existing bonds for some potential savings of possible \$200K over ten years or \$20K per year. We last refinanced in approximately 2006.
 - E. Legal: Working on LT report and turnback estimate.
 - F. IT: Contractual services number will be revisited.
 - G. Elections: Question of keeping \$10K in FinCom reserves fund for potential special election.
 - H. Registrar: need updated numbers.
 - I. Facilities: Costs for natural gas, electricity and phone reflect negotiated rates. Will revisit the utilities number. In response to a question, F. Turkington will review the natural gas contract price.
 - J. Miscellaneous Committees: F. Turkington gave an overview of these five committees.
 - K. Building and Zoning: No questions.
 - L. Minuteman: Expense amount is provided from Minuteman board.
 - M. Veterans: Towns with over 12K population are required to have a fulltime Veterans employee. We use West Suburban Veterans Network to fulfill this need.
 - N. Police: Chief Bob Irving explained this budget including the provision for one additional policeman.
 - O. JCC: Chief Irving outlined this budget. In the future they may move to two dispatchers on all shifts, but not this year.
 - P. Fire: Chief Vinnie Smith explained the fire request including amount raised through ambulance receipts. Brief discussion of how to finance the ambulance request.
 - Q. DPW: Highway, Snow Removal, Transfer Station, Parks: Mike Lowery, chair of BoPW, presented this budget request. Reviewed operating expense and 5 year trends for all areas.
 - R. Wayland Cares: Heidi Heilman and Dianne Bladon presented this budget. Focus is on multi-disciplinary approach so asking to be placed under Town Administrator for reporting. Grant goes through September 2013. Request is to continue key components and will be reduced by any grant amount received.
 - S. Board of Health: No additions to staff; no major changes to request. Discussion of HRS funding request.
 - T. Transfer Station: Discussion of leachate funding and sufficiency of funds.
 - U. Water: Discussion with Mike Lowery of right sizing of the line item requests as done with the Town budgets. BoH will discuss whether fluoride will still be added to water which will impact budget.
 - V. Recreation: Salaries & Fringe nets out costs related to Sudbury. Fringe benefits (retirement health insurance, OPEB admin ost, selectman, finance and treasurers) rose from approximately \$67K to \$102K.
 - W. Library: Ann Knight and Aida Gennis answered questions about this budget. Request meets guideline and maintains level of services after previous budget reductions (hours).

- X. **WWMDC:** Fred Knight discussed the difficulties of putting this budget together with a change of staff in Finance and on the Commission. Follow-up is needed on how to charge betterments, confirming estimated expenses for FY14 and accurately quantifying debt payments. Discussion also covered the potential new field on the grounds of Town Building.
5. **Minutes:** The draft minutes of December 3, 2012 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve as amended. Vote: 5-0-2 (Greenaway and Gutschenritter).
6. **Executive Session:** At 10:30, B. Steinberg asked for a that the FinCom enter into executive session pursuant to MGL Ch 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with regard to the unions representing employees of the Wayland schools and any other such bargaining units whose contracts expire at the end of this fiscal year, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

The motion was moved and seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Gutschenritter: Yes
Karlson: Yes
Steinberg: Yes
Lesser: Yes
Greenaway: Yes
Martin: Yes
Funkhouser: Yes

Bill Steinberg stated that the FinCom would return to open session only to adjourn.

At 11:18 pm FinCom returned to open session and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Funkhouser

Handout: Linda Segal handout