



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 22, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 in the Town Building, second floor conference room, when a quorum was available. B. Steinberg announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCam.

1. Public Comment:

- a. Molly Upton spoke about the School negotiations and budget. She had three points: there is an opportunity through contract negotiations to reduce the upper salary levels for teachers, there is a large step in year 12 and pushing costs too high will drive non-school households out and more kids will move in resulting in higher education costs. M. Upton provided two handouts.
- b. Jeff Dieffenbach sent the FinCom an email with detailed budget comments earlier in January. He encouraged FinCom to support the SC's recommended budget and spoke to teachers' salaries vs. the per pupil expenditure. Wayland compares favorably to peers on the per pupil expenditure.
- c. Anette Lewis spoke about her willingness to talk about the budget format and asked FinCom to closely review the budgets and underlying information. She spoke specifically about the Facilities and DPW budgets.

2. **FinCom Comment on Public Comment:** S. Lesser questioned M. Upton on her chart of teacher salaries. T. Greenaway requested that Anette provide details on the budget line items/events she is concerned about. C. Karlson explained the SC philosophy on a large 12th step and asked A. Lewis if she had addressed her budget concerns with either the BoPW (many times) or the Town Administrator (only through being copied on a public records request).

3. **Review of the FY2014 School Department Budget:** At 7:15pm, the FinCom moved to the SC conference room to hear the SC operating budget request. SC chair, Barb Fletcher, made a presentation which is available online (http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/administration/superintendent/district_budget). Copies were provided to the FinCom.

Following the presentation, FinCom asked questions about the indirect cost allocation agreement, FTE levels in FYs12 and 13, average teacher salary, rationale for prepaying SPED costs, K enrollment projections and need for expansion, WSCP allocations and methodology for allocating costs, per pupil cost peer analysis, consideration of fee increases, budget efficiencies and general comfort level with a budget below maintenance of effort level. The SC will send follow-up info to provide additional information on the question topics.

At 8:35pm, the FinCom returned to its own meeting.

4. **FY14 Proposed Budget, continued discussions:**J. Senchyshyn presented an updated worksheet for the Unclassified, Insurance 32B line item (two handouts). Based on changes in enrollment, the FY13 estimated turnback has increased slightly to \$728,430. The budget drivers that change the FY14 expense estimate are 1. A 5% increase in non-medicare plans and a 1% increase in medicare plans, 2. An estimated 5 additional retirees, and 3. Reserve \$146,412 for mid-year qualified changes. These result in an estimated expense increase of \$364,000 over FY13. The FinCom thanked J. Senchyshyn for his thorough work on this budget item.
5. **Discussion of FY14 budget format in Warrant:** This discussion is continued from prior meetings. J. Senchyshyn explained a sample format for reporting number of employees, FTEs and benefit eligible staff. The committee discussed whether to include text about the department and how best to report on staff levels. A. Lewis was included in the conversation and addressed both FTE reporting and level of line item reporting in the Warrant. It was agreed that A. Lewis would mock up her ideas in a budget format proposal for FinCom to review.
6. **FY14 Proposed Budget, continued discussion:** The conversation continued from earlier in the meeting focusing on the operating budget. Topics discussed included appropriate levels of free cash and stabilization fund balances, bond ratings and maintaining the Aaa rating, tracking the budget to the CPI, using cash balance accounts toward the budget, timing of discussions on the 10% reduction budgets and the importance of taxes paid vs. the tax rate. Information was shared, but no budget decisions were made. The conversation will be continued at the next meeting.
7. **ATM Warrant Article Assignments:** The FinCom reviewed the list of articles and made the following assignments for writing comments.

A. Recognize Citizens	Steinberg
B. Hear Reports	Steinberg
C. Choose Town Officers	Steinberg
D. Pay Previous Bills	Steinberg
E. Current Year Transfers	Steinberg
F. OPEB Funding	Gutschenritter
G. FY2014 Budget	Steinberg
H. Town Clerk	Gutschenritter
I. Personnel By-law	Gutschenritter
J. Sell Vehicles	Lesser
K. Gifts of Land	Karlson
L. RE Tax Exemption	Karlson
M. Rescind Debt	Martin
N. Set Aside CPA	Funkhouser
O. CPA Funds for Loker	Lesser
P. CPA Funds for Open Space	Funkhouser

Q. Landfill Access	Greenaway
R. DPW Building	Greenaway
S. Medical Marijuana Facilities	Greenaway
T. Septage Facility Land	Karlson
U. River's Edge Housing	Karlson
V. FinCom Reports	Martin/Karlson
W. Regulation of Dogs	Lesser
X. Non-resident Town Officials	Martin
Y. Accept Roads	Gutschenritter
Z. CPA Funds for CVA	Funkhouser
AA. Public Consumption	Greenaway
BB. Finnerty's	Martin
CC. Land Clearing, Grading	Lesser
DD. Public Comment	Greenaway

FinCom discussed and agreed that comments would be limited to 30 words on non-financial articles S, W, X, AA and DD.

8. **Chairman's Update:** B. Steinberg requested that someone attend the Suburban Coalition meeting on Wed, January 30th. N. Funkhouser volunteered.
9. **Minutes:** The minutes of January 7th were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended. Vote: 7-0. The minutes of January 10th were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended. Vote: 7-0. Executive session minutes from November 26, 2012 and January 10 and 14, 2013 are pending approval at the next executive session.

At 10:51pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherry Karlson

Documents:

M. Upton, 1. Graph of teachers' step 12, and 2. Copy of public comment to School Committee in October 2012.

J. Dieffenbach email dated January 8, 2013

SC FY14 budget presentation, January 22, 2013,

http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/administration/superintendent/district_budget

J. Senchyshyn, Insurance 32B budget estimate worksheets (2)

J. Senchyshyn and B. Steinberg, proposed format for reporting FTEs in Warrant