



# 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 February 6, 2013**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM in the large meeting room in the Wayland Town Hall.

### **II. Public Comment**

None.

### **III. Finance Committee Members Comments and Questions Regarding Public Comment**

None.

### **IV. Finance Committee Discussion of the proposed operating and capital budgets for Fiscal Year 2014**

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the operating budget approved by the Committee on February 4, 2013 to correct a math error. The motion carried, 5-0.

Mr. Greenaway explained that the budget that had been approved on Monday night did not factor in the \$65,000 cut to the School budget that the Committee had agreed to make at an earlier meeting. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the omnibus operating budget of \$73,626,681. The motion carried, 5-0.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the capital budget approved by the Committee on February 4, 2013 to update it for new information on the DPW garage and to reclassify the funding source for two items. The motion carried, 5-0.

Mr. Steinberg and Mr. Greenaway explained that the cost estimate for the DPW garage had been lowered from \$12.4 million to \$11.4 million, and that the funding source for two of the three transfer station capital items should be reclassified from "non-exempt debt" to the "transfer station revolving fund" with an explanatory note added at the bottom.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve a revised capital budget of \$16.478 million. The motion carried, 5-0.

#### **V. Review Budget presentation slides for Board of Selectmen**

The Committee reviewed and revised the draft presentation that had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

#### **VI. Presentation of FinCom budget**

The Committee made the budget presentation to the Selectmen and members of the public. Mr. Steinberg presented the operating budget, and Mr. Greenaway presented the capital budget. The presentation slides and budget workpapers were distributed at the presentation.

After the presentation, the following members of the public offered their views:

Clifford Lewis admonished the Committee that the budget format was not professionally done, and that the FY13 YTD actuals in particular should have been supplied as part of the presentation. He enquired about the cost per pupil for the schools. Later in the meeting, Mr. Lewis noted that on a cost-per-student is up 10% since FY12. The Committee noted that his increase figure compares FY12 actuals to FY14 budget, which tends to overstate the growth. Mr. Lewis asked about the \$8 million unclassified budget item. He offered remarks on the energy initiative and commented that the transfer station foundations should have been maintained better. The overrun in the cost estimate for the Middle School roof was “unconscionable,” according to Mr. Lewis.

Donna Bouchard asked whether a provision for unsettled contracts was carried in the proposed budget. Mr. Greenaway noted that the budget provided for unsettled contracts. Ms. Bouchard asked whether the tax rate was “fully loaded,” and the Committee explained that the answer was yes, but noted that any debt service on the proposed DPW garage would not affect the tax rate until FY15 in any event. The Committee also noted that it had not yet considered the proposed contribution towards the town’s OPEB liabilities, but that it was carrying in the budget for now the \$1.3 million normal contribution cost last calculated by the Town’s actuaries. Ms. Bouchard asked the Committee to include the appropriation source in the motion on the OPEB article. Ms. Bouchard also suggested that the proposed \$500,000 FinCom reserve fund gives the Committee “unfettered discretion” over a large sum of money.

Anette Lewis asked the Committee to look closely at the Wastewater budget. She predicted that it would be higher than the \$650,000 estimate currently carried in the budget. She asked who has control over capital budgets, and explained that we need to be clear on that. Ms. Lewis noted that if the facilities director spends time on enterprise fund activities, the enterprise funds should pay for his time. She suggested that a cost-benefit analysis on patching rather than replacing the Middle School roof would suggest patching would be the better approach. Ms. Lewis advised the committee to get the opinion of bond counsel in writing as to the proper use of the high school building funds. She also inquired as to the water department vehicle carried in the capital budget, and noted that in her view the schools take up a greater share of the town’s budget than the pie chart in the budget presentation suggested. The Committee agreed that a portion of the debt service, retirement, and unclassified budgets are attributable to the schools.

David Hill suggested that the School Committee’s per-pupil costs, which are calculated based on DESE standards, do not include all costs attributable to the schools. Barb Fletcher, the chair of the School Committee responded to the comment.

Molly Upton suggested that there may soon be heavy construction behind the town hall, so this may not be the right year to repair the town hall parking lot.

#### **VII. Chairman’s update**

Mr. Steinberg encouraged members to work on their article write-ups ahead of next week’s meeting.

#### **VIII. FinCom Members’ reports and concerns**

None.

**IX. Adjourn**

After a motion and a second, the Committee voted to adjourn at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Greenaway

Documents

1. Budget Presentation
2. Budget Workpaper