



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 March 6, 2013

Attendance: B. Steinberg (Chair), C. Karlson, D. Gutschenritter, C. Martin, T. Greenaway, S. Lesser, N. Funkhouser, B. Keveny attended part of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order in the Town Building, Selectman's Meeting Room at 7:05 pm. B. Steinberg announced that the meeting was not being recorded by WayCam.

1. Public Comment:

Bruce Cummings commented on the proposed article to fund \$92,000 for the design of Loker Field development. Bruce indicated that the proposal should be rejected by the Finance Committee on the basis of overstated/inaccurate reported demand for field use, a lack of coherent understanding of the existing and proposed field capacity and usage, as well as a general belief based on some research that the town's actual field use based on team scheduling is inaccurate. Bruce submitted two handouts including a report of usage at the high school level and a presentation with factual information related to his comments.

Tom Sciacca commented about both the proposed DPW building and the Rivers Edge development. Tom indicated that he is amazed to learn that hardly anyone understands the seriousness of the access road issue. He indicated that when he served on the Conservation Commission when the road use was initially permitted, it was permitted for use for 15 years with some very specific Order of Conditions delineated in the permit. He stated that the access road falls within the middle of the Sudbury River marsh area and that Town Counsel has not properly reviewed the Order of Conditions as they relate to its use as an access road for the proposed new DPW building.

7:14 pm: Bill Steinberg indicated that the meeting was being recorded by WayCam.

Tom continued that the ConComm has authorization over the road and Andy Irwin takes seriously the issues related to its location within the wetlands/marsh area such that it could possibly require the road to be elevated on a tressel to alleviate environmental impact. Tom

indicated that the related issues are significant enough that they can't likely be fully vetted at Town Meeting so the article should not be supported.

Tom also mentioned that the level of methane gas reported on the potential DPW site is above the upper end of the explosive limit and is equivalent to a Boston Edison gas pipe being ignited. He said that any discussions about mitigating the impact via engineering standards adds additional risk to the project and that the Route 20 site should be considered as an alternate DPW site possibility due to no access road issues and no methane gas issues.

Tom then indicated that as a member of a Sudbury River Stewards organization he disagrees with the plan to permit the proposed Rivers Edge Housing development rooftops at 50' high. He said that Wayland zoning is for 35' high roofs and that since the river is federally designated as a scenic and wild river, the building will ruin the value of the river as a wild and scenic designation and will change the character of the town and destroy the primary environmental resource belonging to the town.

At 7:20 pm The Chair solicited Finance Committee comments:

D. Gutschenritter asked what specifically was being destroyed with a 50' roof height and Tom indicated that the name of the federal act/designation is the Wild and Scenic Rivers and that should not include a view of any building. The height of the building will result in it being seen anywhere on the river in town and will eliminate the value of the federal designation. D. Gutschenritter asked if the building will impede the flow of water or if there are any other issues Tom is aware of related to the Rivers Edge proposal, and Tom said no. Tom mentioned that there was a request to have a balloon test done to demonstrate the building height but it was not carried out.

T. Greenaway inquired whether there was a law that forbids building on such a designated river and Tom Sciacca reported there was not.

2. **Executive Session:**

At 7:24pm, B. Steinberg asked for a motion 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 Board will also discuss meeting minutes from prior executive sessions for the purpose of approving such minutes. The board will return to public session in about 23 minutes.

Carol Martin made the motion and D. Gutschenritter seconded the motion and all seven members voted in favor in a roll call vote as follows:

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

At 7:47 pm the Finance Committee resumed public session.

3. **Open Issues on The Budget:** Brian Keveny reported on the following:

OPEB: OPEB was adjusted to \$744,202 to match the updated actuarial amount, which affects other accounts. There were other items that affected the inflows to the General Fund in the budget. Specifically, Recreation declined by \$10,556 and the Water Enterprise Fund decreased to \$28,932. Part of the following change also concerned changing the FinComm Reserve to \$325,000.

The modified General Fund amount is \$68,077,733.

The modified Omnibus Budget is \$72,354,838*

*later modified at 9:30 pm to \$72,354,918

C. Karlson moved to reopen the budget discussion. D. Gutschenritter seconded the motion. All seven members voted in favor of reopening the article discussion.

D. Gutschenritter moved to adjust the General Fund Total Budget Appropriation to \$68,077,733 and the Omnibus Budget Appropriation to \$72,354,838* (later modified as noted above). C. Martin seconded the motion and after no comments or questions were raised, the Committee vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. **Article Discussion:**

Article 5 – Omnibus Budget

The Committee discussed the language in the article and agreed to modify the language presented in the article to prepare for revising the numbers at the end of March for the purposes of forecasting free cash more accurately after March-end actuals can be obtained.

D. Gutschenritter moved for the Committee to approve the Article 5 draft as amended (adjustments expected to be made by Finance Director, Town Counsel, Finance Committee Chair and Town Administrator.). C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5-1-1.

Finance Committee Reports Article - previously not approved by the Finance Committee:

C. Karlson mentioned that as a Committee we had previously voted this article down because, in part, we were not supportive of the BOS deciding which articles were financial in nature.

C. Karlson indicated that during Monday's meeting there was some new information shared but the article was not reopened for discussion. Additionally, that if there had been a modified proposal we might have considered reopening the article. C. Karlson indicated that there was no modified article to consider, and that it may be too late to reconsider any changes, but she suggested that we add some text to our written discussion within the article that we had previously voted down in the section "Arguments Opposed." The text would include something to the effect of that *we were not supportive of the BOS deciding which articles were financial in nature*. The group was amenable to this change to the written discussion of the rejected article.

5. **Omnibus Budget Article Writeup:**

The group discussed the draft Finance Committee report/discussion of the Omnibus Budget. After a lengthy discussion with suggested revisions and clarifications throughout, B. Steinberg moved to approve the Finance Committee report/budget writeup subject to suggested editing. D. Gutschenritter seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0 (Martin was absent for the vote) in support of the motion.

6. **Finance Committee Article to be Published:**

It was suggested that several members work on a Finance Committee news article regarding the budget to submit to the newspapers and other media outlets. The subgroup includes N. Funkhouser, T. Greenaway and C. Martin. We agreed to finalize the article by no later than March 18, 2013 for submission to local news outlets.

7. Chairman's Comments and Other Open Items:

The next meeting is 3/27 at which time we will discuss the open article concerning the Loker Design and Study for the ballfields. After that, ATM is scheduled for April 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11.

8. Motion to Adjourn:

D.Gutschenritter moved to adjourn the meeting and it was promptly seconded. A vote was taken and results were in favor of the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 pm (estimate).

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Funkhouser

Related Documents:

Bruce Cummings document submissions:

Powerpoint slide

High School Team field usage document

Draft Warrant Article - Omnibus Budget Discussion

Draft Finance Committee report