



Town of Wayland Massachusetts

Finance Committee

Nancy E. Funkhouser
Thomas Greenaway (Chair)
David J. Gutschenritter
Cherry C. Karlson
Carol Martin
Bill Steinberg
Gil Wolin

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes February 10, 2014

Attendance: B. Steinberg, C. Karlson, C. Martin, G. Wolin, N. Funkhouser, T. Greenaway (Chair), D. Gutschenritter, B. Keveny (Finance Director)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm in the Large Hearing room in Town Building when a quorum was present. T. Greenaway gave an overview of the meeting agenda and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

1. **Public Comment:** Kent George, Indian Dawn, stated that he cannot imagine how the FinCom is allowing a 12.5% increase to happen. This increase is a problem for seniors and he hopes we can take action to reduce this before the budget goes to Town Meeting.
2. **FinCom Members' Response to Public Comment:** T. Greenaway clarified that the budget is not up 12.5% but rather the tax rate is projected to increase about that much given the lower amount of free cash we have to use this year. B. Steinberg reminded the FinCom that K. George was one of two residents who worked with FinCom on the financial projections in 2011 showing what would happen to the tax rate if we used \$4 million in free cash at STM. The tax rate increase is just as predicted by those financial projections.

3. **ATM 2014 Articles - Discussion and Vote:**

- **Rescind Authorized but Unissued Debt:** C. Martin provided a draft write-up for this article and explained its purpose. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of this article. Vote: 7-0.
- **Installation of Fire Prevention Sprinkler System:** C. Martin gave a status update on this article. A walk through of the Cochituate building occurred today and updated estimates of the work are expected early next week. Brian Boggia will check back with CPC on their funding possibilities.

D. Gutschenritter reported on his four articles and said all should be ready for discussion and vote soon.

- **OPEB Funding:** in progress with amounts being finalized.
- **Gifts of Land:** there are no known gifts of land for this ATM.
- **Compensation for Town Clerk:** the BoS is meeting to determine the salary for the new clerk.

- Personnel Bylaw and Wage Classification: there will be minor updates to this standard article.

4. **FY15 Operating and Capital Budget Presentation:** At 7:15, T. Greenaway began the presentation of the proposed budget, explained that there are three handouts and that the presentation will be posted online tomorrow. N. Funkhouser presented the capital portion of the proposed budget. The presentation is here:

http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_Finance/FY15BudgetPresFeb2014.pdf

5. **FY15 Draft Budget Hearing:** Following the presentation at 8:15, the meeting was opened for a public hearing on the draft budget and the FinCom took questions.

Anette Lewis, Claypit Hill Road, complimented the presentation but said that notification of the presentation was lacking. She asked a number of questions:

- For the capital plan, are all the items needed this year?
- Not all items were on the 5-year plan – did FinCom look at that?
- For the goal of driving borrowing down, has FinCom looked at borrowing as a percent of budget for peer towns?
- What is the payback period for the Ameresco projects? Anne Harris, Energy Committee, explained the varying payback periods.
- FinCom should review the journal entries to know where and which accounts money is really being spent from.

Anne Harris, Rich Valley Road, asked if FinCom was recommending the use of too much free cash and if we were getting too close to the 5% level.

A. Lewis had additional questions.

- Asked for a breakdown of the \$2million increase in the School budget.
- Asked for a comparison to other towns of unclassified/benefits (shown on slide 23).

The Chair of the Weston Finance Committee observed the meeting and reported that their debt service per capita is just under 11%.

Frank Normandin, Old Sudbury Road, stated that he was attending his first FinCom meeting after living in town for 18 years.

6. **ATM 2014 Articles - Discussion and Vote, continued:**

- Conduct of Dogs in Town Cemeteries: C. Martin distributed draft comments for this article. Following brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 5-0-1 (Steinberg)

7. **WWMDC (Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated):** C. Karlson stated that Sam Potter, WWMDC, had just come from meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and was requesting time on tonight's agenda due to a development from that meeting. S. Potter reported that due to the amount and complexity of work required to establish good WWMDC billing, he requested of the BoS hiring Powers and Sullivan on a contract basis. The BoS authorized his request up to \$25,000 to do the stated work and to provide a third party review of cash flow projections and did so on behalf of the Town (rather than WWMDC) to hopefully avoid the FinCom having to fund the full deficit created by the February debt payment.

After lengthy discussion, the FinCom reached consensus that we would wait to hear the DOR decision on deficit spending before voting any funds. A DOR decision is expected within a few days

and B. Keveny will follow up on this. Also, B. Keveny could not identify a means to accomplish the hiring of Powers and Sullivan without WWMD bills being paid by the General Fund. FinCom requested that S. Potter and B. Keveny put together a written summary of options for the FinCom meeting on February 24th.

The FinCom took a brief recess.

8. ATM 2014 Articles - Discussion and Vote, continued:

- Accept Provisions of MGL71 §37M: C. Martin provided an update on this petitioners' article. In C. Martin's absence, T. Greenaway will follow-up with the Personnel Director and C. Karlson will follow-up with the School Committee for stakeholder comments.
- "Dudley Woods": C. Martin reported on the status of her discussions with the stakeholders on this article (Rec, Housing Partnership) and provided a draft write-up. FinCom members asked for the write-up to include a history of the topic and will review and vote at a subsequent meeting.

G. Wolin gave a brief report on the Minuteman articles, and C. Karlson gave a status update on the petitioners' articles on gun control and road signs.

- River's Edge Overlay and Transfer and Dispose of Septage Land: B. Steinberg provided draft copies of these two articles to begin the discussion.

T. Greenaway reported that it looks like the ESCO project can move forward with a separate motion under the budget article.

9. Chair's Update: Next meeting is Tuesday, February 18th and then February 24th.

10. Minutes: Minutes will be reviewed and voted at a future meeting.

11. Committee Members' Reports and Concerns: C. Karlson asked for clarification on distributing documents for discussion within the OML requirements. T. Greenway explained that the AG's office is still reviewing our request for reconsideration and referred us to their decisions of 2013-4 and 2013-5 pertaining to the Wayland BoS. Article write-ups that contain comments made by the public or boards/committees in open session should be OK; they should not contain personal opinion. It is preferable to the operation of the FinCom to have comments in advance of a meeting, but it will be left to each member's discretion re: distribution.

At 10:15pm, there was a motion and second to adjourn. Vote: 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherry Karlson

Documents:

Draft article comments:

- Rescind Authorized but Unissued Debt, source C. Martin
- Conduct of Dogs in Town Cemeteries, source C. Martin
- "Dudley Woods", source C. Martin
- River's Edge Overlay, source B. Steinberg
- Transfer and Dispose of Septage Land, source B. Steinberg

FY15 Proposed budget handouts:

- Fiscal 2015 Capital Budget Requests, FY2015 Capital Budget Drivers (2 pages)
- Draft – Recap of FY15 Budget Requests, Revenue and Expenditures (2 pages)
- Presentation slides