



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 24, 2014

Attendance: T. Greenaway (Chair), N. Funkhouser (Vice Chair), B. Steinberg, D. Gutschenritter (arrived after OPEB meeting at 7:10), C. Karlson (arrived after OPEB meeting at 7:10), G. Wolin, B. Keveny (Finance Director – arrived after OPBB meeting at 7:10).

Chairman Greenaway called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

1. Public Comment

Col. Steve Garanin, president, Wayland Rod & Gun Club read a statement in response to the proposed article regarding noise. He said that they have never limited membership in their 80 year history. The club has held open meeting to discuss neighborhood noise concerns, but none of the article signatories has attended those meetings. There is no reason to close the indoor range, as no noise can be heard outside the building. C. Karlson is coordinating the ATM article write-up with Mr. Garanin

D. Gutschenritter, C. Karlson and B. Keveny joined the meeting during Public Comment.

2. Town Budget

Chairman Greenaway indicated that the FY15 budget was in order. There were still a few moving parts, like motions on amendments to the articles, that needed to be discussed with the Town Moderator in preparation for town meeting. These include what might happen if the town votes against specific budget items like the elementary school reconfiguration.

Greenaway stated that state law requires a one line vote on the school budget and does not permit the reconfiguration cost to be broken out, in response to a question by B. Steinberg, absent an amendment to do so during town meeting. Greenaway would discuss the possibility of motions to reconsider breaking out the reconfiguration costs with the Moderator.

B. Keveny said FinCom needs to set the reserve salary adjustment. C. Karlson indicated that some numbers needed confirmation before finalization, and a few budget items, like wastewater, remain to be reviewed prior to Town Meeting.

3. Article Review: Finance Committee members led the discussions of their assigned articles.

N. Funkhouser led discussion of the First Parish Church restoration work. Some numbers need confirmation but the bulk of the work is complete. D. Gutschenritter indicated some concerns about separation of church and state and using town funds to restore a religious building. Gretchen Schuler of the CPC was in attendance to answer questions. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 5-0-1.

The Cochituate Apartment fire prevention sprinkler system will require \$500,000 to accomplish the work, but only \$125,000 will be spent this year. G. Schuler indicated that the CPC would like the entire amount needed to be earmarked now, and that the money is in the CPC funds. Town Counsel says Housing Authority money cannot be used here as per Ms. Schuler.

N. Funkhouser reported that two questions remain on North Cemetery Preservation management. \$15,000 is committed, with another \$20,000 coming from DPW to be voted tonight at their meeting. DPW Director Don Oullette indicated that the money had been allocated 2 years ago, and was available pending completion of an archeological study. No FinCom vote taken pending DPW vote.

Forty Acre Drive article analysis still waiting on additional information, per N. Funkhouser. No vote taken

The Finance Committee voted to recommend approval of Recognizing Service to Town, Pay Previous Year Unpaid Bills, Current Year Transfer, Choosing Town Officers, Sell/Trade Vehicles, and Hear Reports all. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 6-0.

The Sidewalk Construction article was discussed, but a decision was deferred as B. Steinberg will go back to the Planning Board to have some questions answered. It appears to make unnecessary by-law changes.

N. Funkhouser introduced the WaylandCares article. T. Greenaway recused himself from the discussion as his wife is on the board of Wayland Youth and Family Services. The Youth Advisory Committee voted to support the Wayland Cares article, but there has been no action yet by the Personnel Board or the Executive Committee. Discussion followed regarding the Wayland Cares mission, was it a youth-only or communitywide program? Petitioner D. Blandon, Winthrop Road, indicated that it uses best practices to attack the problems on all fronts, a communitywide coordinated effort. She stated that a establishing a 501(c)3 non-profit to pay for the program via fundraising distract and divert attention from the program mission. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 3-2-1.

C. Karlson updated the FinCom on the article to prohibit weapons discharge. The Conservation Committee voted not to support the article (which gives them new

responsibilities). A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. The Finance committee voted 0-6.

B. Steinberg explained the Sign Zoning By-law article. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend passage of the Sign Zoning Law change. Vote: 5-1.

B. Steinberg updated the FinCom on the Transfer Station Access Road article. There was much discussion about whether or not to recommend approval for FY15 given the other proposed town expenditures, particularly in view of the pending legal appeal re: potential historical artifact damage. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. The vote was 0-6.

River's Edge (two articles) was presented by B. Steinberg. Questions were raised about sale vs lease of the land, changes from the last proposal and liability for clean up if contamination was found. Due to the article's initial length, much of the supporting detail was moved to the Warrant appendix. After much discussion about the write-up of the proposed Amend Zoning Bylaw Chapter 198 to permit the River's Edge housing project, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 5-1.

C. Karlson gave an overview of the article creating the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. Vote: 6-0.

Transfer and Dispose of Septage Facility Land on Boston Post Road – B Steinberg indicated that the cost to move the Transfer Station to the Septage site will be between \$1.75 and \$2.25 million. This is the second article related to River's Edge. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of this article.. The Finance Committee voted to recommend approval 5-1.

David Gutschenritter delivered an update on OPEB funding and the ATM article. The total funding required appears to be about \$675,000, coming from a transfer from free cash in General Fund. The committee's objective is to draw from all involved enterprise and/or revolving funds, but Food Service and Children's Way funds are insufficient to cover the full balance of their past contributions at this time. The Personnel Board voted to recommend 3-0. The OPEB Committee is sponsoring the article.

Keveny indicated that the Mass DOR views this as an unbudgeted refund, and requires careful timing for transfers from various funds to cover shortfall.

C. Karlson discussed that the January 2014 Moody's report does not accurately reflect our past OPEB contributions. The shortfall has affected the Town's Moody rating. In 2013 the town funded 74% of OPEB. The FinCom discussed as to whether the revolving and enterprise funds had to fund 100% of their OPEB obligation going forward.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval. The Committee voted to recommend approval 6-0.

Remaining Issues For Town Meeting:

Chairman Greenaway is preparing the budget report for town meeting, and indicated he sees 2 big issues: the Town is running out of free cash and the school reconfiguration.

Most of the remaining 18 open articles will be reviewed and voted on in the Thursday, February 27 meeting. Chairman Greenaway emphasized that help was available if needed to prepare article write-ups.

3. Capital budgets – N. Funkhouser emphasized that CIPs were due by Friday, February 28.

4. New Budget Format

Anette Lewis and B. Keveny reviewed the proposed changes to the budget report presentation that they had developed. MUNIS does not offer the flexibility to present and track the annual budget as required by Wayland's format in the 2013 Warrant. MUNIS cannot do budgetary control as required at this level of line item detail.

For this fiscal year, B. Keveny has made the necessary adaptations to provide that necessary control, track and monitor expenditures against budgeted amounts. FY2015's budget will have 77 budget line appropriations, as compared with FY2014's 107.

While this is much better than the previous report, there are limits to how much detail and control is available and functional in these reports.

4. Other matters

C. Karlson stated that the Board of Assessors voted tonight to release \$655,000 in Overlay funds. Chairman Greenaway indicated that this was about \$200,00 short of what was anticipated.

5. Meeting Schedules:

The next Finance Committee meetings are scheduled for February 27 and March 3, with an additional meeting possible on March 6

At 11:12pm, there was a motion and second to adjourn. Vote: 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Gil Wolin

Documents distributed during the meeting:

- Agenda
- Text of articles
- FY14 Operating Budget – source, B. Keveny