



Town of Wayland Massachusetts

Finance Committee

Thomas Abdella
N. Funkhouser (Chair)
Dave Watkins
C. Martin
B. Steinberg
Gil Wolin
G. Cliff

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2016

Attendance: C. Martin, B. Steinberg, N. Funkhouser (Chair), G. Cliff, and Finance Director Brian Keveny.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM in the Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was not taped.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Report from Finance Director, Brian Keveny:

Brian reported that the increase in this year's estimate of Health Insurance to next year's budgeted amount is roughly 11%. The initial budget didn't include new hires and the engineer position that we added. The number that is currently in the budget is the number that John Senchyshyn believes is the appropriate number based on seven months of actual. There was discussion about the increase and whether or not to take the budgeted number down some. The committee agreed that if we overrun this year we can be more conservative next year in our forecasting. B. Keveny indicated that turn backs have been declining over the past several years and rather than cut the budget now, it would be more prudent to see where the number comes in this year and look closely at it next year.

C. Martin also mentioned she would like to reduce the fincom reserve account because some the funds the Committee had earmarked for IT have actually been put into the IT operating budget and after much discussion the committee decided not to.

IV. Discuss STM Articles

N. Funkhouser indicated that a request was made for the fincom to speak at the PRO microphone for the MM articles and inquired of the committee whether they felt that was appropriate. Consensus was that our input was provided in the article write-up and no further information should be provided in a comment.

IV. Liaison & Members Reports Concerns and Topics

B. Steinberg indicated that we may want to reconsider whether we disseminate article write-ups in advance of meetings because of the potential for an OML violation. N. Funkhouser indicated as long as the write-ups are distributed by the Finance Director and no discussion is held between committee members in advance of their review at a meeting that advance distribution is okay. There was discussion about the matter with no committee consensus on the issue.

V. Reconvene following completion of STM – 9:20 pm

Article S – Adopt MA General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ , Revolving Accounts

C. Martin presented Article S. there was a discussion about lowering the Transfer Station spending cap to \$450,000 from \$550,000 as well as adding in capital costs and indirect costs to the description printed in the article. C. Martin indicated she would look into the appropriate cap. With respect to the School Curriculum Fund, there was a question about where the revenues come from. With respect to the School Department, Professional Fund, there was a question about whether teachers contribute to this out of their own pockets.

C. Martin moved to recommend approval on the article. B. Steinberg seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0-0 in favor. There was a recommendation to modify the language in the transfer Station fund to add reference to capital projects.

Article FF: Establish 53D Recreation Revolving Fund

C. Martin explained that while waiting for the special state legislature to act on their request to increase their 1% cap, the Recreation Commission has elected to move the Beach costs to a separate 53D which will support both the revenue and expenses of the Town Beach. The 53D will be funded with approximately \$100K from the existing Recreation Revolving Fund. C. Martin indicated that because of the 53D fund, we cannot take indirect costs from it. B. Steinberg inquired whether we were more directly matching costs with revenues and C. Martin indicated that in case of the beach, yes. Ms. Martin added that because a 53D may carry over only a maximum of \$10K from year to year, the 53D would have to be funded annually at Town Meeting. C. Martin moved to recommend approval of the article, N. Funkhouser seconded the motion, and it was approved 4-0-0.

Article GG: Establish and Fund Recreation Stabilization Fund

C. Martin explained that while waiting for the special state legislature to enact an increase to their 1% cap, the Recreation Commission has elected to create and move approximately \$300K of their surplus funds to a Recreation Stabilization Fund. The fund will be set up to support Recreation Capital projects. This article permits them to spend that money with a 2/3rds vote at Town Meeting. C. Martin indicated that by moving the user fees for field and town gym rentals to local receipts, the Recreation Revolving Fund may not continue to experience such large annual surpluses. Mr. Cliff asked Brian his opinion on this article. Mr. Keveny indicated he is okay with this short term solution. C. Martin moved to recommend approval of the article, G. Cliff seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-1-0.

Article AA: Transfer Small Portion of Lakeview Cemetery

C. Martin moved that we recommend approval of article AA, B. Steinberg seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor.

Article D: OPEB Funding

G. Cliff indicated that the way the article is structured, \$50,000 comes as a reduction because we get it back in the General Fund. He also said, referencing page 20 of the warrant, that b) puts us on parity with recommendations by our OPEB committee.

There was an ensuing discussion about an ongoing observation about the fact that some employees that pay into the fund are part time less than 50% of the time so that there would be no cost to us. B. Steinberg mentioned that the Schools in particular hire school personnel to work PT for the schools during the year and then those same people are PT for seasonal work or FT Kindergarten and that the FY Kindergarten or Pegasus for instance, should not bear the full brunt of their OPEB contribution because it isn't fair. B. Steinberg stated that an argument against this article is that programs are being unfairly charged.

No vote was taken on this article.

Article X: Transfer 193 and 195 Main Street

G. Cliff mentioned that this article was intended mostly for the Library to put an application in to the State but that Recreation also wants to put a field in that location. A suggestion was made to add the word "authorize" to the title of the article. G. Cliff mentioned that the WRAP Committee has not opined on this matter. No vote was taken.

VI. Adjournment

C. Martin put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 pm. B. Steinberg seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,

N. Funkhouser