



# Town of Wayland Massachusetts

## **Finance Committee**

David Watkins, (Chair)

Gordon Cliff

Nancy E. Funkhouser

Carol Martin (Vice-Chair)

Klaus Shigley

George Uveges

## **Finance Committee**

### **Minutes**

**April 2, 2017**

Attendance: N. Funkhouser, G. Cliff, D. Watkins, K. Shigley, G. Uveges and C. Martin. Also in attendance were B. Keveny (Finance Director).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Watkins in the Field House at the High School at 12:30pm when a quorum was present. He indicated the meeting was not being recorded by WayCam.

**Review Agenda & Announcements:** Chair Watkins reviewed the agenda, stating the FinCom would tackle as many agenda items possible before adjourning in thirty minutes to attend Annual Town Meeting. Noting several members of the public were in attendance, Mr. Watkins asked each speaker to be as brief as possible, due to the time constraints.

**Public Comment:** Gail Shapiro, West Plain Street asked the Committee to defer the School Committee's(SC) request to transfer \$451,938 from Salary Settlement to the School's FY18 budget until the Fall Town meeting. She felt the Committee needed more than 30 minutes to review this request.

Peggy Patton, Plain Road added she agreed with Ms. Shapiro that 30 minutes is not enough time to make significant decisions. Molly Upton of Bayfield Road said this process was too rushed as the full impact of the agreement made with the Wayland Teacher's Association(WTA) is not known. She urged greater thought be given to the entire process.

Frank Kennedy, Old Sudbury Road thanked the FinCom for its Report in the Warrant, indicating that in his 53 years as a resident, this was the best report ever as it clearly laid out the budget

and the financial issues facing the Town. Mr. Kennedy also urged the FinCom to delay the SC's transfer request.

Gil Wolin of West Plain Street, noted tax bills just arrived and the message is clear: things are going up. He applauded the FinCom for its due diligence in putting together the FY18 budget and asked the Committee to continue to do so by delaying a decision on the SC's transfer request. Anette Lewis, Claypit Hill Road asked the FinCom to rise at Town Meeting and speak against the School Committee's transfer motion, stating there hasn't been enough time for anyone to review the request. She added that the transfer request could be sorted out at a Fall Town Meeting.

Chair Watkins read an email from Donna Bouchard of Concord Road which reminded the FinCom its mission includes providing residents with factual and relevant information so they can make an informed decisions at Town Meeting. She added she did not think a 30 minute review of the SC's transfer request was adequate and requested the FinCom defer action.

**Committee's Response to Public Comment:** Chair Watkins indicated that he has been inundated with emails asking the FinCom to defer action on the SC's transfer request. He added he agrees that the FinCom has not had adequate time to process, review and/or discuss this transfer.

**Chair and Vice-Chair's Update; Discussion Regarding ATM Motions:** Tom Holder, Director of Public Works advised the FinCom that due a late snowstorm, the Snow and Ice request in the Current Year Transfers article needed to be increased from \$270K to \$335K. The FinCom was advised the motion will be amended during Town Meeting by the Board of Selectmen. Chris Brown, Chairman of the Board of Public Works advised the Committee that the BoPW voted to not submit a motion to increase the spending cap for the Transfers Station Revolving Fund. The spending cap will remain at \$650K for FY18 as part of the Revolving Fund Article.

**Members' Reports, Concerns and Topics for Future Meetings; WRAP Update:** Chair Watkins observed Town Meeting was starting in ten minutes and suggested the Committee table these discussions until the next Fincom meeting. The Committee concurred.

**Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting, If Any:** Mr. Cliff stated he wanted to discuss the School Committee's motion for a transfer request. School Committee member Ms. Fletcher distributed copies of the Motion to Amend Motion 1 of Article 6 which requests \$451,931 be transferred to the School's FY18 budget. Mr. Cliff stated while the Committee was only made privy to this transfer request two days prior, Collective Bargaining Agreements are often reached at the last minute.

Ms. Grieco added that Town Counsel had advised the SC that when new collective bargaining agreements are reached, the funds for wage increases need to be approved by Town Meeting versus just transferring the funds from one line to another in the Operating Budget. She felt that was the push was to reach a settlement prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Uveges asked for clarification on whether the contract starts on July 1st or September 1st. Ms. Fletcher stated the contract year starts on July 1st. Mr. Crozier, Assistant Superintendent concurred.

Chair Watkins stated that although for the first year of the contract, the School Committee has adhered to established guidelines, in the out years this settlement may present some challenges. He added the Finance Committee doesn't have any numbers to support this request.

Mr. Cliff moved to approve the SC's transfer request. Ms. Funkhouser seconded. The motion to accept the amendment passed. Vote 3-1-2 with Uveges opposed and Watkins and Martin abstaining.

**Minutes - Review and Approve:** Review of March 27th minutes were tabled for review at the next FinCom meeting.

**Adjourn to Town Meeting:** Ms. Martin moved and Mr. Shigley seconded adjournment. Vote 6-0. Committee adjourned at 12:57pm to attend Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Martin

Documents:

Public Comment Email (Source: D. Bouchard)

Motion to Amend Motion 1 of Article 6 (Source: School Committee)