

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 4, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: J. Burke, M. Kent, M. Iwanowicz, D. DiCenso, C. Lane, D. Bruce, J. McDermott, L. Pitman, S. Lawson, J. Denneen, S. Ahmed, T. Williams and 8:20 D. Crowley Absent: J. Lowre and P. Hinton. Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton, Fire Chief T. Bailey and Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

7:30 p.m.- Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman L. Pitman.

May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 34 – Request for Additional Liquor Licenses

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to take Article 34 off the Table, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Board of Selectmen, Petitioner of this article had requested one Wine and Malt Package Store License (originally a private petitioner) and two All Alcoholic Common Victualler's Licenses, Selectmen voted at their meeting of April 2, 2013 for No Action on the entire article.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for No Action on Article 34, Motion Passed (11-1-0) (C. Lane opposed) (12 voting)

Town Administrator spoke to the Attorney for the East Walpole Market might attend the Finance Committee Public Hearing on May 2, 2013 to speak to the Wine & Malt Package Store License.

Schools -Present for this discussion was Superintendent L. Lynch, School Committee Chairman N. Gallivan, School Committee Member M. Ryan, Business Manager, M. Friscia , K. Garvin, School Nurse and W. O'Malley, Teacher/Intern

Superintendent Lynch spoke to the School Department filing today the MSBA Grant Proposals for the capital projects for the schools. These projects are eligible for 50% reimbursement.

M. Friscia, School Business Manager, updated the FinCom that the School Department is optimistic of obtaining at least one grant and hopefully additional ones. Fisher School

project, cost of \$1,580,000, potential reimbursement of \$790,000; Boyden School project cost of \$390,000, potential reimbursement of \$195,000, Elm Street \$235,000, potential reimbursement of \$117,500, Walpole High School \$705,000 with reimbursement of \$352,500. Total cost of all projects is \$2,910,000, potential reimbursement of \$1,455,000. Projects are scheduled to be funded through the Debt Budget and Town should receive an answer from the State by June 30. Town Administrator spoke to the projects being prioritized, they need to be done and borrow the monies as needed. Future plans are to address the two middle schools, roofs throughout the schools, replacement of Lexan windows, boilers and electrical being updated throughout the system. Heating unit at high school is to be replaced, and it is a good idea when replacing the heating units to do the air conditioning for the auditorium as they will be working on the roof.

Budget

Committee had questions on the significant jump in Professional Development and Travel since 2112. It was explained that this is to meet contractual obligations, this had been held off due to the recession. \$7,000 reimbursement for is for teacher's working on their masters, this is part of the collective bargaining agreement. In the current contract, they had received two year concessions from the teachers. Enrollments, number of students is 49 at high school since October 1. 184 students throughout the system, 123 withdrawn, wit a net of 62.

Schools today do a lot more than educate. They provide socialization, deal with health issues, etc. Over the last 10 years, the State's low income percentage has increased by 46%, Walpole's has increased 39%.

8:20 – Committee Member D. Crowley

Food Services Department has been restructured. School Administration worked with employees on the labor contracts, adjusted benefits for new employees and reduced potential liabilities for employees hired as of July 1, seven middle managers and cooks positions have been eliminated. In order to do this Schools had to purchase capital equipment which will be funded through revenue received over the next three years. There was a \$35,000 deficit in this budget last year and they hope to break even this year. They applied for a US Healthy Challenge Grant and won a bronze award. Only 20 school districts were awarded this Grant. A lot of people were involved to make this work. All schools will receive \$3500 and recognition for being in the program. Monies are to be used for physical activity, health education, wiiii entertainment, and is nutrition drive. When Finance Committee tours the high school, it will end at the Food Services Department.

Special Ed Transportation – M. Friscia, Business Manager , Town presently has seven vehicles at this time and all drivers live in Walpole and don't receive benefits. Vehicles have been purchased in a variety of ways. There are 15 – 16 students presently using the vans and costs add up. Vans go to Brookline, Middleboro, and Brighton. They provide outstanding customer service and there have been no issues. Savings in transportation help reduce the special ed budget. School Department hopes to keep and maintain the vans that we have and have saved over \$100,000 this year. They are meeting all the needs of the children and living up to all the requirements and mandates. Schools are trying to do more with town programs but State doesn't reimburse for in town programs. Vans are also used for transporting small amount of students for athletics, middle school trips for special education, etc. Town still uses YCN for some transportation. 38 students are out of district.

Nursing/Medical Needs – Kathy Garvin, School Nurse Leader, spoke to this subject. Every school has a nurse, health needs are becoming more complex in the schools. They have to deal with numerous state mandates, immunizations, concussions, etc. Nurses write grants, go on field trips, provide supervision of medications, provide wheel chair assistance, physical hygiene and IV medications. Communicate with parents/guardians regarding individual student health issues. Monthly Activities Form are prepared monthly.

Contracts – School contracts set the outline for the rest of the Town's unions. Schools include teachers, instructional aids, custodians and secretaries. School Administration position is that they won't fund raises out of the Override monies.

J. Kenney, Assistant Superintendent spoke to two full time and three part time personnel working on professional development. Training is required for all teachers and all administrators are trained on assessments, and provide training on testing and analyzing the data.

N. Gallivan, Superintendent of Schools, spoke to a \$230,000 gap presently existing between the School Department request and Town Administrator's recommendation. They will go along with Town Administrator's recommendation and will look for assistance from any additional state aid or revenues received. They will look for additional monies in the Fall, as the state numbers have not been identified. They are committed to level services for personnel, and, hopefully, have more retirements and resignations. They don't foresee any lay-offs. Override did help them. School will be scheduling a meeting with the State legislatures and will advise the Committee when this is to take place.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on the School Budget in the amount of 37,576,000, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) (Unanimous)

High School Tour

Members of the Finance Committee along with members of the School Department will tour the High School on Friday, April 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Article 2 – Personnel Board Salary Amendment

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by T. Williams for Reconsideration of Article 2, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

At the April 2, 2013 Personnel Board meeting, the Personnel Board voted to amend Article 2, Personnel By-Law Article 18-Overtime and Compensatory Time from their original request of February 21, 2013. They will revisit this By-law and make recommended changes for the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, dealing with the way comp time is calculated from time and one half to straight time for certain positions. They are only recommending changing the grades to coincide with the new Salary Schedule for this Town Meeting.

Under Article 34 of the By-Laws/Quinn Bill they have amended the present section in its entirety to read: The Town will treat the non-union sworn personnel in parity to the union contract for purpose of MGL 41,section 108L. (No Change as this is what was originally proposed)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on proposed changes to Article 2 of the Personnel By-Laws dated April 3, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D. Bruce abstained) (13 voting)

Budgets

Personnel Board Salary Schedule – P-7, Personnel Board will revisit the difference in hours on the P-7 Schedule for the various department heads, some work 40 hours and some work less, being all lumped together. It was felt that they should be separated out.

Council On Aging Budget

Finance Committee had previously voted this budget, but there is a change in the funds between Salaries and Expenses due to the new hire for the Director of Council on Aging

position. Savings in salary have been transferred to expenses, bottom line remains the same.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Reconsideration on the Council on Aging Budget, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

\$50,000 Grant monies update - Director has the responsibility to report state expended monies from formula grants based on figures from the state. State wants to know what was spent. When a Grant is received, year end expenditure reports filled out by COA

Director. FY2012 report for last year not filled out, Town Accountant did research, and there was \$58,000 not spent, money is not to be carried over from year to year. Any problems with the Grant monies, Town Administrator feels it is due to a lack of understanding on what needed to be done. In the future, Town Accountant will be filling out these reports, new system has been put in place. And under the jurisdiction of Town Accountant and not the Council on Aging. Committee questioned why any issues on the Grants were not discovered by the Auditors.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Bruce for Favorable Action on the Council on Aging Budget in the amount of \$171,566 (\$148,015 for salaries and \$23,551 for Expenses), Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D. DiCenso abstained) (13 voting)

Article 6 – Funding

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to fund Article 6 in the amount of \$74,146,070 from the following fund sources: \$72,336,534 from Taxation, \$650,000 Ambulance Fund, \$50,000 from Overlay surplus, \$3,000 Sale of Cemetery Lots, \$50,000 Health Insurance Trust Fund, \$730,150 Wetter Enterprise Fund, \$324,624, Sewer Enterprise Fund and \$1,762 from Septic Loan Assistance Program, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the minutes of March 25, 2013, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Meetings

Next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2013. Finance Committee Public Hearing is scheduled for that evening at 8:00 p.m.

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Town Administrator extended his thanks to the Finance Committee Members for all their assistance and cooperation in making this year's budget preparation go along smoothly and finishing in a timely fashion.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) (T. Williams absent from voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk