

TOWN OF WENHAM

Finance & Advisory Committee
Meeting of January 27, 2016
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Committee members, a meeting of the Finance & Advisory Committee (FinCom) was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen Chambers.

1) Call Meeting to Order

With a quorum present, Chairman Lucy, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Committee Members present: Michael Lucy, Chair; Ned Flynn; Rick Quinn; Alex Begin, Michael Therrien
Also present: Angel Wills, Finance Director; Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator (A 6:51 pm)
Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public information

The meeting was recorded with permission by HWCM

The Committee was provided with a copy of the FY 15 Audit, noting it was a “clean audit” reviewed by the audit committee.

Proposed FY 17 budgets

Council on Aging (COA)

Assessors

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Police Department

2) FY Proposed Budget Presentation & Department Head Briefings

a. Council of Aging (COA)

Jim Reynolds, COA Director was present. He summarized the proposed Fy 17 budget for the COA.

- Increase in Director’s salary to reflect the market rate of COA directors; this increase will be transitioned over a couple of years.
- The COA van service continues to operate effectively; the van was paid for in part by a grant and is now owned by the Town. It was suggested that the Town look into private transportation to share, in part, in meeting the needs of Wenham residents, particularly specific needs it our of area medical appointments.

Mr. Reynolds noted the basement space of the COA building may be available for town use, but needs improvements.

The COA budget was supplemented in the amount of \$8,600 to maintain level services.

Mr. Reynolds continues to seek grant opportunities for COA programs, etc.

b. Assessors

With no representation present, the Assessors’ budget was held.

Approved 4.26.16

c. Department of Public Works (DPW)

DPW Director Bill Tyack was present. He gave a brief summary of the proposed FY 17 budget for the various budgets.

422 Highway

- There was a decrease in salaries in part do to the unavailability of “summer” help.
- Green Communities grant funding for iron rail
- Change from purchase to lease-to-own medium dump truck
- Street maintenance capital reduced to \$50,000 (covers basic maintenance primarily for winter damage repair). The goal to bring it back up to \$150,000
- Current balance of Chapter 90 money is \$300,000.
- Fuel is purchased through a regional consortium and level funded; discussion to fund at actual cost , thus reducing the budget and increasing Capital.

The Fin Com will review the actual fuel costs over the past 3 months before amending the budget.

423 Snow & Ice

Level Funded - It was noted that this account could be deficit spent; once it is increased it cannot be reduced.

192 Building & Grounds

Energy Manager is now included in this budget. This position was previously funded through a grant. This position is shared with Hamilton and the HWRSD

199 Iron Rail

- Reduction in the budget with no Capital funded.
- Green Communities Grant will be used to assess the Iron Rail building for a replacement boiler
- A grant application will follow for a boiler.
- Revenues from the Iron Rail property is approximately \$150,000 annually

491 Cemeteries

There is a slight decrease in the proposed budget with the removal of stipend positions. The Committee requested a review of the fees.

294 Tree Warden

- Reduction in proposed budget; tree planting removed
- \$15,000 increase for a Tree Study. Discussion ensued that the Tree Study be removed from the budget. It was the consensus of the committee that with most funding being used to remove trees and no budget to plant trees that a study not be done. This will be further considered.

d. 210 POLICE

\$45,000 salary increase

- Three officers (jr stage) increase to 80% full time salary in year five.
- Officers – higher education – 10% increase contractually
- Two employees pending retirements

FinCom 1.27.16

Approved 4.26.16

- Increase in expenses as a result of moving funds into the budget for fleet maintenance from DPW, and the town beach program
- Cruisers – replacement on rotation – one front line car in FY 17
The Committee questioned having an extended warrantee (100,000 miles) with the purchase of a new cruiser and requested historical data on repairs / cost to compare the value of buying an extended warranty.

The digital fingerprinting machine, approved in the FY 16 budget, was recently implemented and has already been used and identified a false identify of a person under arrest. This is a great tool for the department and is connected to the State, FBI, Immigration

The Assessors presentation will be rescheduled.

The FinCom requested to know how many dwellings there are in town and multi dwellings in town to get a sense of the scope of the assessing valuation.

The Assessor is retiring the end of February. Candidates are currently being interviewed.

Next Finance Committee Meetings:

January 28, 2016 - Joint meeting with Hamilton FinCom and Regional School District

February 3, 2016 – Fin Com meeting

Other Matters - as may not have been reasonably anticipated by the chair

Mr. Flynn questioned the formula for Hamilton / Wenham Regional School District budget and how the assessment is done. Mr. Lombardi responded it is done on a per pupil assessment based on a rolling three year average of student enrollment.

The potential developer of the proposed condos on the Lakeview Ch. 61 property, has agreed to an age restricted development.

Adjournment

The Finance Committee unanimously adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
2.15.16

FinCom 1.27.16