

TOWN OF WENHAM

Finance & Advisory Committee  
Meeting of, February 17, 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, February 17, 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 6:35 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; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public information

The meeting was recorded with permission by HWCW

FY17 Budget Recap Memo

Minutes - January 20, 2016; January 27, 2016, February 3, 2016

**2) Department of Public Works** budget discussion of Open Items: Fuel/ Road Capital /Tree Survey

Bill Tyack, DPW Superintendent was present.

Ms. Wills reviewed the Committee had questioned if the fuel budget could be reduced due to lower fuel prices and transferred into road maintenance capital.

Ms. Will noted the fuel budget has a 25 percent contingency built into the budget (\$11,000, ) and based on actual usage she said that \$11,000 could be transferred from Fuel Expense budget to the Road Capital budget; this would increase the Road Capital budget to \$61,000.

Mr. Tyack supported this change and suggested this be reviewed for the FY 18 budget.

Tree Survey – The discussion is to transfer consulting fees to the purchase of trees/planting; \$15,000 is in the budget for a tree survey. It was noted that tree-planting funds were used for removing trees at the discretion of the Tree Warden.

This agenda item will be discussed during the meeting with the Selectmen at 7 pm and was deferred.

**3) FY 2017 Budget Recap**

Mr. Lucy reviewed adjustments and cuts have been made and the Committee would be provided with the net impact to the budget.

Ms. Wills reported:

- \$350,000 was trimmed from the budget and final adjustments made on revenue
- It appears the unrestricted Government Aid is increasing by 4.29 percent (\$8,000)
- The assessment to Hamilton increased from \$ 707,000 to \$719,000 due to indirect costs, health insurance, retirement etc.
- The Pleasant Pond Beach assessment to Hamilton is \$5,800.
- The total operating budget for the Town of Wenham is \$17,301,165. This is a projected increase of the tax rate (6.7%) from \$16.98 to \$18.12 per \$1000 of assessed real estate value with an increase of \$508.00 for a median home valued at \$509,000.

- It was noted the bulk of the increase in FY17 was due to the enrollment shift in the school system that increased Wenham's assessment by \$329,000. The total increase in the School budget is \$762,000.
- The excess levy capacity is \$95,000.
- The budget assumes a 1 percent COLA.

The Committee noted their concern with the increase of the tax rate but it was understood there are no obvious options to reduce the budget. This will be further discussed at the meeting with the Board of Selectmen following this meeting.

**4) Minutes** – January 20, 2016; January 27, 2016, February 3, 2016

- *Mr. Quinn moved to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 20, 2016 and it was unanimous to do so.*
- *Mr. Quinn moved to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 27, 2016 and it was unanimous to do so.*
- *Mr. Therrien moved to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of February 3, 2016 and it was unanimous to do so.*

**Adjournment**

The Committee unanimously adjourned their meeting at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley  
4.20.16