

May 25, 2010

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting of Thursday, March 11, 2010 ~ 7 PM  
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

With a quorum present Mr. Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Selectmen Present: Lawrence Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary  
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Sarah Johnson, Finance Director; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations used;

BOS – Board of Selectmen

FY- Fiscal year

Budget discussions began with the Proposed Funding for Budget Gaps in the FY 11 budget. The BOS reviewed a newspaper article in a local paper reporting that State Aid is expected to be cut more than the Governor had previously stated.

Specific employment issues were a part of the reduction of the budget gap. It was identified that the school gap is at 2%. The Hamilton Selectmen support the Fair Share plan in some form. The gap figure is \$382,000.

Mr. Swartz briefly talked about his support of a revised block system at the High School as an option to close the school gap.

Mr. Swartz led the discussion regarding the school budget gap. He noted that the vocational School enrollment increased by one student. Two students now attend the North Shore Regional Vocational School; this is an increase for Wenham in the amount of \$14,000.00.

The impact of the budget on town services was noted as a departments are already severely stressed.

Ms. Davis noted conceptually Wenham was down one million dollars in revenue from FY'09 during which time the School increase was 17% and the town departments were cut 5 %.

Ms. Johnson confirmed that the Assessors unused abatement funds can be used once they are released.

The Selectmen's discussion included the balances of Free Cash, The Reserve Fund, The Overlay Fund, and Available funds.

There was a discussion regarding the town's increase in revenue and expenses of the budget increase with the 2% increase plus new growth.

There is no override if there is no gap.

The Selectmen referenced Preliminary Recap Sheet comparison of fiscal year 2010 to 2011 Finance Committee Recommendations dated 3/11/2010

Possible Budget Reduction Strategies document was referenced, and the Board talked about worse case scenarios. Various town employment positions were detailed regarding budget specific figures.

The Board requested that Bill Tyack submit an explanation rationalizing the purchasing of a new truck and plow citing the hourly wage paid to outside plows that would no longer be needed if the new equipment were purchased.

The Board talked about their level of comfort with the budget going forward to the Finance Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board to forward the budget as discussed March 11, 2010.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Ms. Davis made a motion with three members present to enter into ES Under M.G.L. chapter 39, section 23 b (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to include Sarah Johnson and Molly Martins and to return to open session for the sole purpose of adjournment. The motion was seconded and all members voting in the affirmative and non in the negative on roll call vote it was VOTED: to enter into ES.*

*849 pm The Selectmen returned to open session and on a motion by Ms. Davis it was unanimous to adjourn.*