

MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL
130 MAIN STREET

Present: Paul Sylvia, Gene Parini, Ellen Yaffe, Bill Diederling, Courtney Bridge and Tom Hickey

Absent: Linda Bliss, Michael Dwyer and Richard Reilly

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham; Town Accountant Doreen Guild; Selectman Jim Pierce, School Committee member Susan Sundermeyer, The Sandwich Enterprise and SCT

ITEM #1
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM #2
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Not a quorum of members present for the minutes being presented for approval.

ITEM #3
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

-Overview of FY'14 Budget Estimates:
Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'13; Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 (showing 1.6 million deficit); Projected Aggressive Revenues and Expenses - FY'14 (showing possible decreases to the deficit) – Under Expenses, very concerned about State Assess: Tuition Assessment \$2,650.
General discussion about the ambulance fund; the school budget and busses etc.; some of the school funding includes plan for a possible STEM academy.
Overview of -New Growth/Added Property Value FY'95 – Present; Town of Sandwich Levy Limit History; Local Receipts; Free Cash Certifications FY'95 – Present; Sending Tuition Assessments & Discretionary Aid Receipts History FY'04 – Present; Sandwich enrollment at Sturgis Charter School.
Overview of information the Town Manager e-mailed to the School Superintendent and the School Business Manager on October 31, 2012 regarding FY'14 Budget Estimates.
Overview of FY'14 Capital Budget Summary.

General discussion-

Update on the progress of the accounting software system conversion with the general government and the Schools. The Town Manager noted that the Town and the School Department have to be on the same system. Currently the Treasurer's Office receives a paper copy of the school payroll and has to re-enter the information. To the School's credit, it is believed that the school department is willing if there is a system that would work for both departments. It is very important to have the integrated system but if the schools are not ready to...it is not the time to do it. Question was raised about sending tuitions (charter schools) and have there been discussions about luring our students back to our schools? Note was made that the charter schools can actually publicize their schools. The STEM program is a big reason it makes a lot of sense in terms of saving our students.
A request was made for a breakdown of the school vs. the general government.
The Town Manager gave an overview of the proposed timeline for the FY'14 Budget noting that by February 1, 2013 the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manger submit proposed budgets to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee votes the final budget recommendation by the end of the first week in April.
Overview of December 4, 2013 e-mail from the MMA(-alert) to the Town Manager – Governor to announce mid-year budget cuts and second e-mail – Governor cites shortfall and cut local aid.



In response to a questions raised about school spending...is this an issue for Sandwich or are other towns being affected also, the Town Manager noted that a letter, signed by the Board of Selectmen, will be sent to Senate President Therese Murray and Representative Randy Hunt this week expressing our growing concerns about the impact of tuition assessments on local budgets. The Finance Committee will be copied on it. Overview of Long Range Capital Plan (draft 11/19/12) – It will be given to the Board of Selectmen and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The Selectmen will have had a chance to look at it and then in January or February there will be a formal presentation.

ITEM #4
FINANCE COMMITTEE ASSISGNMENT UPDATES

Ms. Bridge (the Tri-Board) met on December 6th. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8 at 9am at Town Hall, 130 Main Street.

Mr. Parini (Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School) - No update at this time.

ITEM #5
OTHER

It was noted that Finance Committee members can submit questions for the School Department through the Fin Com Chairman, similar to last year.

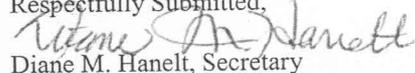
It was suggested that Principal Assessor Ed Childs be invited to attend a Finance Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

8:12 P.M.

***MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MS. BRIDGE . SECONDED BY MS. YAFFE . VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: 1/22/13 As Presented

Supporting Documents:

- Project Revenues and Expenses – FY'13
- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14
- Projected Aggressive Revenues and Expenses – FY'14
- New Growth and Property Value FY'95 – Present
- Town of Sandwich Levy Limit History
- Town of Sandwich Local Receipts
- Free Cash Certifications FY'95 – Present
- Sending Tuition Assessments & Discretionary Aid Receipts History FY'04 – Present
- Sandwich Enrollment at Sturgis Charter School
- Oct. 31'12 e-mail from Town Manager to School Sup. And School Business Mgr re FY'14 Budget Est.
- FY'14 Capital Budget Summary
- Proposed Timeline for FY'14 Budget
- Town Charter info – re submission of budget
- Dec. 4 '12 E-m from MMA Alert re state budget cuts and Shortfall for FY'13
- Long Range Plan draft 11/19/12