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APR 12 2013

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MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL
130 MAIN STREET

Present: Paul Sylvia, Gene Parini, Ellen Yaffe, Bill Diedering, Linda Bliss, Courtney Bridge, Tom Hickey, Richard Reilly

Absent: Mike Dwyer

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham; Town Accountant Doreen Guild; Paul Tilton, DPW Director/Town Engineer; Mary Stanley and SCT

ITEM #1
CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEM #2
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 26, 2013 (1st Meeting held at 6:00 pm at the Sandwich Public Library/w/Selectmen, CIPC & Library Board of Trustees)-
***MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. BRIDGE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2013 AS PERSENTED (LIBRARY HVAC PROJECT). SECONDED BY MR. PARINI. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**
MR. HICKEY ABSTAINING

ITEM #3
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dunham and DPW Director/Town Engineer Paul Tilton FY'14 Operating Budget Overview –
Budgets #410 (DPW/Engineering), 420 (Highway), 421 (Snow & Ice) and435 (Sanitation). An Enterprise fund was started this year with the advent of the Pay-As-You-Throw program. We have a contract with SEMAS at this time for waste hauling. Due to the increase in tipping fees that will be going into effect, we are looking into other options with the help of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The tipping fees we pay SEMAS may be increasing significantly. Recycling is encouraged at our transfer station. We have been able to close another day, on Tuesday, and the transfer station is now open from 8 am to 8 pm on Wednesday. At some point we are going to have to increase sticker fees and bag prices because of the SEMAS tipping fee increases. PAYT has been very successful.
The terms of the contract with SEMAS will be about ten years and an increase of about 2.5%. There will also be Department of Environmental Protect (DEP) fees that we don't have any control over.
Mr. Dunham - the operating budget is level funded. In FY'15 we are looking at a big increase.
Mr. Tilton – we are trying to be as efficient and frugal as possible this year.

Mr. Hickey – are sticker fees fully funding the cost of running the transfer station?
Mr. Tilton – no…about 50/50
Mr. Hickey – would it be a good idea to increase the cost of stickers in small steps if we are going to take a big hit from SEMAS in a couple of years?
Mr. Tilton – it is an idea.
Mr. Dunham – increase the bags one year and the stickers the next the bags the next etc. 'til we are fully funded.
Ms. Bridge – what are all our options?
Mr. Tilton – going to Bourne with our trash is still on the table but we are negotiating with SEMAS.

Mr. Dunham – Bourne approached several upper cape towns. Mashpee and Sandwich said Bourne would not commit to a time same as SEMAS. We found out we would not be able to get the same deal from Bourne as Falmouth got.
Mr. Parini – do you track you customer base?
Mr. Tilton – we lost about five hundred customers. We do not take demolition materials. We sell our metals. We do generate revenues…but the market is down a little right now. The sticker prices are staying the same for this year.
Mr. Diedering – the enterprise fund gets the revenues from the metals…how do we know how much is being paid…is it enough or too much?
Mr. Dunham…we won't know 'til the end of June.
Mr. Hickey – can you give us some sort of a time frame with SEMASS and numbers?
Mr. Dunham – the SEMASS contract is on a calendar year not a fiscal year. We are looking at a short term contact looking to the future.

DPW/Highway Dept. –
Mr. Tilton noted that our roads are the town's most valuable asset. It is important to take good care of our roads. Paving costs increase annually. We received $790,000 in Chapter 90 funding from the state last year. Hoping to get the same amount again this year. We need at least one million dollars annually to keep our roads in good shape. A road bond is a good idea. A road bond does not include any town parking lots. We usually can do two roads a year. It costs about ten times as much to not maintain roads regularly.

The Joint Public Safety Building and the road bond were the top two bonding issues the Board of Selectmen and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee agreed on.

Parks/Tree Dept.-
Cemetery and tree removal project update. Repairing head stones, cleaning up some of the old dead trees

Snow & Ice account update-
Blizzard 2013 (nemo) cost about $70,000 . There were over one hundred trees down and one hundred roads we did not have access to. It cost about $43,000 to clean up the streets. I could cost between $1,000 and $5,000 to repair.

Mr. Dunham thanked the DPW for the level of cooperation and public safety. Mr. Tilton and his staff go out of their way to help the public.
MEMA (Mass. Emergency Management) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management) officials were here after the storms. Apparently Barnstable County did not meet the threshold for assistance so we will not get any help with this.

Discussion of the number of employees in the Sandwich DPW compared to the number of employees in other cape towns.

Ms. Yaffe noted that there are trees across walking areas on some of the town's conservation areas. It was noted that, yes, we will be taking care of this cleanup and some of the cost for this cleanup may be reimbursable through MEMA/FEMA.

Mr. Tilton thanked his staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Dunham noted that next Tuesday he will have the updated number on the Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School.
Capital Budget-
Two projects are still undecided at this time; the HVAC project at the Library and the A wing at the High School. The consultants on the Library HVAC project will be coming to the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 21st to explain the options.
The Selectmen will take a vote on the A wing at the high school on Thursday.

Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the rough draft of Annual Town Meeting warrant articles.

Discussion on State Chapter 70 School funding.

Mr. Diedering, questioning some of the school budget, noted that at one time the schools were growing by leaps and bounds so they got the money. We continue to fund the schools and are not funding the general government. The schools are declining and we are not changing the budget accordingly i.e. the DPW & Public Safety. We can make up some ground in the structural deficit by getting back to properly staffing our town departments.

Note was made that we have lost 25% of our students since 2002. Half of that we have lost since 2009…455 students less and we have more school staff now than we had back then. We have to adjust the schools budget bearing in mind student enrollment. Over a thousand students have left the Sandwich schools system in the last ten years.

Mr. Hickey – how can we be reducing the schools population and paying much more in the school budget? Do we take it off the backs of the tax payers? Do we take it away from the schools?

Ms. Yaffe – it is not an easy situation. The population of the schools is down and the budget is still the same. Where is the school money being spent? It is unfair to pull the rug out from underneath the schools without having Dr. Canfield here to discuss it. The schools should have a long range plan...something in place to deal with the decline in students.

Mr. Diedering – we were told a year ago that the FY13 budget would result in reductions in staff and implementation of fees, neither of which happened. Think about what we could do if we reduce school staffing from 445 to 440…just five people. I think the schools would barely notice. Compare to adding to public safety…that would be a huge impact.

Ms. Bridge – people are coming to town for the schools but they are also coming for the town.

Ms. Yaffe – you have to look at the school budget on a long term basis. If you say we are going to decrease the contribution a little bit at a time…by, say, 2% each year?

Mr. Diedering – not talking about reducing the school budget, just not increasing it as much.

Ms. Bliss - (on the HVAC system at the Library) are you thinking about getting a second opinion on the proposed system? Was not satisfied with the answers given two weeks ago. Would like to have another opinion before March 21 when the engineering company will be making a presentation at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Ms. Yaffe – was very frustrated by the presentation a couple of weeks ago…was very confused. No clear justification for the numbers presented.

Mr. Dunham noted that he trusts the people who have been working on this project. They are looking at the roof issue and the possibility of using the patio.

Mr. Diedering – doesn't have a good feeling about spending that kind of money for an HVAC system. A second opinion is a good idea.

c. Draft List of Annual Town Meeting Articles – May 6, 2013 ATM-
Mr. Dunham gave an overview.
The Capital Improvement Planning Committee Chairman will be invited to attend a meeting relative to their warrant articles.

d. Library HVAC Project Update-
At March 21st Board of Selectmen's meeting.

e. Joint Public Safety Building Group Presentation-
At March 26th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

f. Other:
None

ITEM #4
COMMITTEE

Subcommittee Reports-
Mr. Parini – Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School Committee will meet this Thursday, March 14.

Mr. Sylvia noted that he will invite Dr. Canfield back to one of the next Tuesday meetings and ask him to bring us a five year plan.

Ms. Bridge suggested that if Dr. Canfield is coming in then perhaps the Board of Selectmen can come in to the same meeting.

Mr. Sylvia reminded the Committee of this Thursday's bus tour of the schools. Need to RSVP.

ITEM #5
ADJOURN

9:05 pm
***MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MS. BLISS. SECONDED BY MS. BRIDGE VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane M. Hanelt
Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: 4/10/13 As presented

Supporting Documents:
- DPW Infrastructure & Budget Report – Transfer Station/Highway Dept. / Parks & Tree Dept.
- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 Increased Ch. 70 Aid
- Budget Totals (GHD Draft 3/12/2013)
- FY'14 Capital Budget Summary
- HVAC Feasibility Study – Public Library
- Sandwich High School Wing A Window Sill Renovation
- Index of Warrant Articles – May 6, 2013 (GHD Draft 3/12/2013)