

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

JUL 11 2013

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MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL
130 MAIN STREET

Present: Paul Sylvia, Gene Parini, Bill Diederling, Tom Hickey, Linda Bliss, Ellen Yaffe, Michael Dwyer, Richard Reilly

Absent: Courtney Bridge

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham; Selectman Linell Grundman 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 March 12, 2013-

*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DEIDERING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2013 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MS. BLISS. VOTE – UNANIMOUS MR. DWYER - ABSTAINING

ITEM #3
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dunham gave an overview of Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 – Increased Ch.70 Aid (Selectmen Vote 3/28/13; Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 – Increased Ch. 70 Aid (Finance Committee Vote 4/3/13); FY'14 Budget Totals (GHD Draft 4/10/13); FY'14 Capital Budget Summary (DRAFT 4/10/13); Draft Report from Rider Levett Bucknall - Preliminary Cost Estimate Sandwich High School Wing A Window Renovation / Option Recommendation; Index of Warrant Articles (GHD Draft 4/10/13); Finance Committee recommendation relative to Article #2 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant– School Dept. Operating Budget and the Finance Committee Recommendation relative to Article #2 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant – School Dept. repair of window sills at Sandwich High School A-Wing.
General discussion.

-Ms. Bliss –The Finance Committee's vote last week to recommend the Sandwich High School A-Wing window sills project but not recommend use Stabilization Fund for funding the project was sending a message to the Board of Selectmen, not necessary to the School Committee or Dr. Canfield. It was to send a message to the Board of Selectmen about funding of town government. It was not a vote of 'no confidence' in Dr. Canfield and the School Committee.

-Mr. Sylvia - Nothing is definite on the state money. The Finance Committee could ask the Board of Selectmen to reconsider a debt exclusion for this school matter.

-Mr. Hickey - For those who voted last week to not recommend use of the Stabilization Fund for this project, the vote was to raise a flag...let's not take the \$500,000 from the Stabilization Fund...let's take it from the School Dept. budget. The Board of Selectmen should have a better handle on where the money should come from. Mr. Hickey noted that he was one of the six who voted to take the money from the school's budget. I guess I don't expect the School Dept. to come up with the \$500,000. The Board of Selectmen has made a decision to go with the Stabilization Fund and I am going to support them.

-Mr. Diederling - voted against it because he feels we are not putting the dollars where they should be. Taking money out of Stabilization was not my main concern...it was a concern but not my main consideration. Was thinking about making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that, rather than an alternative budget, because

you cannot vote to not recommend a budget without having an alternative budget to offer and this is not a budget I agree with.

-Ms. Bliss- Can't we say we don't recommend this budget? We have offered other numbers.

-Town Manager thinks it is cleaner to take it from (the school's) capital budget but the Board of Selectmen favor taking it from the Stabilization Fund. The Board of Selectmen is looking potentially at three (3) debt exclusions.

-Mr. Diederling – I think we should stick to our guns...I think we should recommend what we voted last week.

-Mr. Parini – How should we sell it...how do we promote it?

-Mr. Sylvia – We have a chance at Town Meeting.

-Mr. Diederling – if we post an alternative budget for Article #2...local contribution to the school. We vote to recommend \$500,000 lower than the Board of Selectmen's Budget...that would be the alternative budget. We could make our recommendation for Article #5 contingent on Article #2.

-Mr. Sylvia – we could do a contingent vote...if Article #2 passes, we can stop Town Meeting and revote our recommendation.

-Town Manager – you can do all of this at Town Meeting...don't put a recommendation in the warrant...you support having the work done on the window sills at the High School but not the way it is being funded.

-Ms. Yaffe – what is the mechanics of this going to be? How would the Moderator call for a vote?

-Town Manager – the Board of Selectmen's article would be explained first. Then the Finance Committee could offer and amended motion to reduce the amount by \$500,000 then the Town Meeting could vote it. A Capital Exclusion to fund the project could be considered and some of the money may come back through MSBA (Mass. School Building).

-Mr. Diederling – I don't support this budget because I believe we are putting too much money in one budget.

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERLING THAT WE DON'T RECOMMEND ARTICLE #2 AND FURTHER THAT WE MAKE A MOTION AT TOWN MEETING TO AMEND ARTICLE #2 TO REDUCE THE PROPOSED LOCAL CONTRIBUTION BY \$500,000 REDUCING THE SCHOOL DEPT. BUDGET FROM \$23,836,018 TO \$23,336,018. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI.**

Discussion.

-Mr. Sylvia – we were not considered in the discussion by the Board of Selectmen to take the money out of the Stabilization Fund for this project. I don't want to vote in favor of alternative budgets but we have to go in another direction. I don't know what the solution is...it might get people's attention...but all we do is make recommendations...we are stuck doing something we don't like to do. I support it and think it is time to take a stand on this.

-Ms. Bliss – I think we need to have a clear message with all our information involved for Town Meeting.

-Town Manger – Dr. Canfield feels strongly about the STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). They are trying to save money.

-Mr. Diederling – Sept. 2014 STEM is scheduled to start...how are we jeopardizing thing going forward? It wasn't in the budget at any point. The only increases were a STEM Director.

VOTE: SEVEN (7) AYES / ONE (1) NAYE (Article #2 is not recommended by the Finance Committee)

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. BLISS TO RECIND LAST WEEK'S VOTE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE #5 (TO FUND THE HIGH SCHOOL WINDOW SILL A-WING REPAIRS THROUGH THE STABILIZATION FUND). SECONDED BY MR. DIEDERLING. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

General discussion on Finance Committee recommendation/presentation at Town Meeting.

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERLING TO AMEND ARTICLE #5 TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$500,000 FOR WINDOW SILL REPAIRS IN A-WING AT THE SANDWICH HIGH SCHOOL...INSTEAD OF TAKING IT FROM THE STABILIZATION FUND...**

-or, maybe after Article #2 is voted, Town Meeting takes a recess and...

****MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERLING THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE NOT PRINT ANY RECOMMENDATION IN THE WARRANT AND WE COULD VOTE TO RECOMMEND PASSAGE OF ARTICLE #5 IS THE SELECTMEN'S ARTICLE #2 PASSES AS IS WE CAN RECOMMEND PASSAGE OF ARTICLE #5. SECONDED BY MS. BLISS. VOTE – UNANIMOUS****

*****MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERLING THAT IF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S AMENDMENT ON ARTICLE #2 DOES NOT PASS...WE RECOMMEND ARTICLE #5 TO RAISE AND**

APPROPRIATE THROUGH THE STABILIZATION FUND. SECONDED BY MS. BLISS. VOTE – SEVEN (7) AYES / ONE (1) NAYE

Article #6 – Capital Budget

Mr. Dunham gave an overview and there was a brief discussion

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI TO RECOMMEND PASSAGE OF ARTICLE #6 – THE CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000. SECONDED BY MR. DWYER. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

Note was made that the Special Town Meeting will be held on the second night of town meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2013. There will be one (1) Warrant for both nights – Monday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

ITEM #4
COMMITTEE

No Sub-Committee reports

No meeting next week.

Brief discussion regarding the Finance Committee members who will be present on the stage during the Annual/Special Town Meetings. Mr. Sylvia will contact the members and advise.

ITEM#5
PUBLIC FORUM

FY'14 Budget & ATM & STM Warrants-

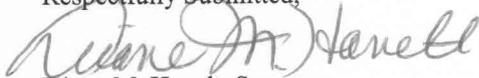
Mr. Steven Barr was present regarding the Citizen Petition Article to Separate and Privatize the DPW Divisions. Members of the Finance Committee noted that they would need more information than what is currently available...they don't know enough about the article.

ADJOURN

8:30 pm

***MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI. SECONDED BY MR. DIEDERING VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: 7/9/13

Supporting Documents:

- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 – Increased Ch. 70 Aid (Selectmen Voted 3/28/13)
- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'14 – Increased Ch. 70 Aid (Finance Committee Vote 4/3/13)
- FY'14 Budget Totals (GHD DRAFT 4/10/2013)
- FY'14 Capital Budget Summary (Draft 4/10/2013)
- Draft Report (Rider Levett Bucknall) SHS Wing A Window Sill Renovation (Option #6 Recommended)
- Index of Warrant Articles (GHD Draft – 4/10/2013)
- Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles #2 and #5 – Finance Committee Recommendations
- Property Tax Comparison* (handout from FinCom member Rich Reilly)