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TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

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MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
130 MAIN STREET, SANDWICH, MA

Present: Paul Sylvia, Gene Parini, Mike Dwyer, Richard Reilly, Linell Grundman, Matthew Terry and Anne Dessertine

Absent: Ellen Yaffe and Tom Hickey

Also Present: George Dunham, Selectman Chairperson Jim Pierce, Enterprise Jim Kinsella 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 Tuesday, January 7, 2014-

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. GRUNDMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2014 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI VOTE – UNANIMOUS Mr. Riley abstaining**

ITEM #3
TOWN MANAGER / FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Mr. Dunham presented the FY'15 Budget...same information as was presented to the Board of Selectmen last Thursday night. The 'tabbed' sections in the budget binder are: 1) FY'15 Budget Recommendations with Summary Attachments 2) CD of Initial FY'15 Budget Submission 3) FY'15 Budget Information with Financial History, Projections & Analysis 4) FY'15 Capital Budget 5) FY'15 General Government Budget 6) FY'15 School Dept. Budget 7) FY'15 UCCRVTs Budget 8) Miscellaneous Budget Information.
- The FY'15 School Dept. Budget was voted last week.
- The UCCRVTs budget is not received yet...typically not 'til later in the budget process.
- The General Government budget is increased by 2.5% over the FY'14 budget.
- The 'needs' budget summary is worth taking time to look at.
- Summary of significant budget changes...hi-lighted items indicates change by at least \$5,000.
- Trying to make the Treasurer/Collector one position. Still a work in progress. (Could be savings of about \$73,000 from the Collector's account that we are not paying for a separate tax collector.)
- Natural Resources budget approximately \$9,650 reduction in the work camper program. The Recreation Department is going a great job overseeing things at Oak Crest Cove. We don't need the work campers to be there as much.
- There is a vacancy in the DPW/Engineering budget #410. The position of part-time clerk (which is vacant at this time) is not working out for this department. We are looking to get a person who would serve as a GIS analyst as well
- The Library budget has related trust funds such as the Weston Fund that are not overseen by the Town and the amount of the funds they give to the Library budget are uncertain. The Town Auditors have suggested that we have better more solid numbers from them.
- Tab #4 is the Capital Budget...still in progress. The current balance is just over \$900,000
- FY'15 projected Revenues and Expenses. State Discretionary Aid is cut.
- Snow & Ice Deficit...winter maintenance. One more private road, which met all the requirements of the town, has been added to the list of roads to be plowed.
- Overview of tuition assessments. Kept the same assumptions as October...planned on 3% tuition assessment. Net change between the assessments and reimbursements of approximately \$350,000.
- We currently have three non-profits in town who make PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) payments...Spaulding Rehabilitation Facility and Shawme Heights I & II.

Mr. Parini expressed concern about the financial aspect of the legal case with the former superintendent of schools. Dunham noted that between the present Superintendent Dr. Richard Canfield and Mr. Dunham they will try to find a way to cover it. If it gets appealed we are going to have to wait to see how we are going to do it. Mr. Parini noted that if we have to pay for the superintendent's case...he doesn't want the money to come out of the General Government Budget.

Ms. Dessertine spoke about the inequities of tuition assessment.

General discussion on the school's budget and tuition assessment for students going to another town for school. Ms. Grundman noted that funding formulas don't work for this town. The formula funding impacts all of our services.

Letters have been sent to Senator Therese Murray and Rep. Randy Hunt requesting the support in changing the formulas...with no success.

Mr. Sylvia noted that the School Superintendent and the School Committee will be in to next week's meeting and asked the FinCom members to submit any questions they may have to Mr. Sylvia in advance.

On the subject of tuition assessments Ms. Dessertine asked that the town keep trying to change things...a firm believer in try...try again...we're not trying hard enough.

Mr. Dunham noted that he and Selectman Chair Jim Pierce and Superintendent Dr. Richard Canfield will be going to a meeting on this matter on Friday.

Ms. Dessertine asked Mr. Sylvia if it would be a good idea to break into teams and each team reflect on a different budget instead of everyone concentrating on all the budgets?

Mr. Parini thanked Mr. Dunham and his staff for a great job done on the budget.

Mr. Dwyer would like to see the school budget and their explanations separated out like the General Government budget.

Mr. Dunham suggested posting a work shop meeting. The meeting would be open to the public with no input from the public.

Next week's meeting Tuesday, February 11 Superintendent Dr. Canfield and the School Committee will be coming in.

The next week February 18th will be the school vacation.

The next week February 25th the Police, Fire and DPW will be in.

Discussed and agreed that the week of February 18th there will be a 6 p.m. workshop meeting.

Mr. Terry noted some information on the Cherry Sheet and there was a brief discussion.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request-

Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the need the Department of Natural Resources has for a pickup truck. If the Finance Committee will vote to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer for this purpose, we can put the order in now and have the truck in time for the Spring/Summer. The requested amount is \$42,000. It was noted that the Committee does not have to vote it tonight but, if it does not vote it tonight, it will be part of the capital budget that we will be recommending. There are two main vehicles, one for the Animal Control Officer (kept at the JSD building) and two hand-me-down vehicles (kept at the Facilities Dept. at Oak Crest Cove) for part timers.

Mr. Dunham noted that the current balance in the Reserve Fund Account is \$485,000.

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI TO APPROVE A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER OF UP TO \$42,000 FOR A TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. SECONDED BY MS. GRUNDMAN. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Dunham gave an overview to vote to deficit spend the Snow and Ice Account in accordance with Chapter 44 Section 31D.

***MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI TO AUTHORIZE DEFICIT SPENDING OF THE SNOW AND ICE ACCOUNT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 44 SECTION 31D. SECONDED BY MS. GRUNDMAN. VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Mr. Dunham updated the Committee on a grant application for a substantial amount of money the Town has applied for through the Mass. Dept. of the Interior Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program for reimbursement of funds for super storm Sandy and Nemo. The application for five million dollars was submitted on time on Friday with the help of a hand full of people. Thanked Mr. Kirk Bosma of the Woods Hole Group, for all of his work on the application and process. Mr. Bosma describes the process as three pronged...permits, money and sand. One of the reasons Sandwich stands apart from other towns going through this process is that we have done so much work toward this over the last dozen years. Recent meetings with Bruce Carlisle, Director of Coastal Zone Management in Boston and Steve McKenna CZM Cape Cod & Islands, Regional Coordinator – it was noted that they want to support our efforts... Sandwich is a poster child for this grant. The grant application has a 25%, local/in kind match, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously at a recent meeting to support an amount of one million dollars if we get the grant.

On the subject of tuition assessment, Mr. Dwyer asked if the Town ever heard back from Senator Murray or Representative Hunt regarding the letters that the Town sent to them.

Mr. Dunham - the situation is bigger than just us. There are many towns that benefit from tuition assessment.

ITEM #4
COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee Reports-

Mr. Reilly – Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) –

At the most recent meeting several topics were discussed including the pickup truck for the DNR.

Ms. Grundman – School Committee

Attended the workshops / very transparent...good dialogue with Committee and Business Manager

Mr. Sylvia agreed with Ms. Grundman’s comments and suggested taking a look at the meetings on line.

Mr. Parini – Board of Selectmen

The Town Manager presented the FY’15 General Government Budget to the Selectmen at last week’s meeting and they will hold a Long Range Capital Plan workshop this week.

Ms. Dessertine noted that she was at Town Neck Beach on Friday... beach efforts are really needed.

Mr. Dunham noted, on the topic of South Sandwich Village, that TRT withdrew their proposal for the 55 acres of Town land (Route 130 – Golden Triangle) they offered to purchase. Their proposal is off the table.

Future Meeting Schedule-

As discussed earlier in this meeting...

-the School Dept. will be in next week.

-the next week a workshop will be planned

-February 25th the Police, Fire and Department of Public Works will be in.

-a follow up with the School Dept. in March

Mr. Sylvia reminded the Committee to send him any questions they may have for the School Department.

Other-

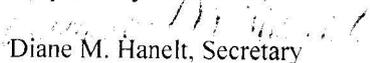
None.

ITEM #6
ADJOURN

9:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,


Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: _____

Supporting Documents: FY’15 Budget Information