

Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

MAR 30 2016

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MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, March 22, 2016
7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
130 MAIN STREET, SANDWICH, MA

Present: Linell Grundman, Bob Guerin, Rich Reilly, Mark Snyder, Jim Lehane, Tom Witham

Absent: Gene Parini, Mike Dwyer, Matt Terry

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham, Finance Director Mimi Spahr, Student Actors from SHS, Jim Pierce and SCT.

ITEM #1
CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2
PUBLIC FORUM

John MacLeod and Yasmine Chahine, members of the Sandwich High School Blue Knights' Theatre Group talked about a play that will be presented by the group called 'Into The Woods'. Performances will be on Friday and Saturday, April 1 & 2 and Friday and Saturday, April 8 & 9 at 7 pm as well as Sunday afternoon, April 3 at 2 pm.

ITEM #3
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 8, 2016-

*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SNYDER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2016 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MR. REILLY. VOTE - UNANIMOUS Mr. Lehane and Mr. Guerin abstaining.

ITEM #4
CORRESPONDENCE, STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Grundman-

-At the Selectmen's meeting on April 7 the Water Quality Advisory Committee will be presenting the Plan. Ms. Grundman, Health Agent David Mason and our consultant will be present and will plan to attend the Finance Committee meeting.

-More questions were answered by the School Committee. Thanked the School Committee and Dr. Canfield.

-Matt Terry submitted his letter of resignation today and we accepted it. We hope to have a new member by Town Meeting. We are looking for women. The Town Moderator Garry Blank will be working with Ms. Grundman on this matter.

ITEM #5
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dunham noted that he is finalizing some numbers. Gave an overview and update of the Projected Revenues and Expenses - FY17 (Selectmen Recommendation Vote 2/25/2016). The General Government budget number is \$16,274,032. Waiting for some information from the state. Two changes came in after February 1...one for the Public Health Nurse Department - the cost to purchase vaccinations...\$26,000 spent of the \$25,000 appropriated so we bumped it because of the increased costs. The second is the Veteran's budget - the assessment was along the line originally but recommended that we appropriate \$28,000 due to additional Veteran medical costs.

Update on the FY'17 Capital Budget- The Board of Selectmen plan to vote the full budget Thursday night.



Town Manager met recently with Director of Assessing Ed Childs regarding the total town levy... anticipates a 6% increase. Projected tax rate is \$14.47 (\$14.26 per thousand). On the average home value of \$364,384 the average bill is going up by about \$200.

Ambulance Fund balance update. Revenues as of August 31, 2015; Balance end of year/\$543,268.69. (Note: FY'15 Average Monthly Revenue = \$115,241; Sufficient Funds will Exist by May 2016 ATM for \$1,000,000 SFD Operating Transfer)

Overview of 26 Warrant Articles - Draft 3/18/2016.

Article #1 – Report of Town Officials and Long Range Plan overview

Article #2 – FY'17 Budget

Article #3 - FY'17 DPW – Sanitation Division Operating Budget

Article #4 – FY'17 Golf Dept. Budget

Article #5 – FY'17 Revolving Fund Appropriation Limits

Article #6 – FY'17 Capital Budget

Article #7 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund

Article #8 – Sandwich Promotions Fund Appropriation

Article #9 – Chapter 90 State Aid to Highways Program

Article #10 – School Dept. Cell Tower Lease Transfer and Appropriate of Funds

Article #11 – Beach Re-nourishment Account Appropriation

Article #12 -Capital Outlay Expenditure Exclusion: Public Roads and Infrastructure

Mr. Witham - Each of the next three years this will be a vote to approve spending \$1.3m each year?

Mr. Dunham – yes, \$1.4m possibly.

Mr. Witham – can it all be voted at one time?

Mr. Dunham – yes, you could, for a total of \$5.2m but then you would have to bond it. Spending the smaller amount each year you can do a debt-exclusion and there is also a difference of the 2/3rds vote.

Mr. Guerin - \$1.3m...about how much will it increase taxes.

Mr. Dunham – about \$123.00

Article #13 (Debt Exclusion Public Safety Buildings) The architects suggested \$16 - \$18m...We won't have hard number until the end of the month.

Article #14 (override for 8 EMS/Firefighters) – Approximately \$750,000. \$140,000 of that would be for health insurance and liability...\$610,000 for staffing (equipment, training, etc.)

Mr. Dunham referencing the buildings...it is estimated to take 2 ½ to 3 years for construction of the public safety building...beginning to end. The East Sandwich construction will be quicker.

Mr. Snyder asked why are we asking the people for the money to hire the eight people now if we don't have the new building yet.

Mr. Dunham – They want to do it all at the same time and with the public safety buildings. \$16 - \$18 m is so much less than previous amounts.

Overview of schematic drawings of the proposed buildings to be located on Quaker Meetinghouse Road/Cotuit Road. There are some changes but the people were on vacation last week so we don't have the up to date information yet.

Articles 15 – 19 are Community Preservation Act (CPA) articles...Lower Shawme Pond Dam, Grist Mill and Related Work - \$1.2m; Clark-Haddad Building - \$1,105,000; Cedarville Cemetery Improvements - \$70,100; Thornton Burgess Society Jam Kitchen Restoration – 50/50 matching ...\$50,000 from CPA

Article 20 – Public Road Taking / Aviator’s Lane... probably no betterment will be needed.

Article 21- Authorize Selectmen to Grant Easement: Baksis Road to NRG Canal

Articles 22, 23 & 24 – Town Bylaws...Dune Protection (DNR); Animal Control and Public Consumption or use of Marijuana (Police Chief Wack).

Mr. Snyder asked if a mandate to pick up dog waste is included.
Mr. Dunham – yes.

The Selectmen have discussed but not voted yet.

Article #25 Transfer Care Custody and Control of the Henry T. Wing School to the Board of Selectmen

Article #26 – Elect Officers & Ballot Questions

Mr. Snyder – If we transfer the Wing School to the Board of Selectmen are the costs going to be higher.

Mr. Dunham – The schools have asked that, if there is a transfer, could we please put a caveat that, if the schools need it for one more year...can we do that.

Mr. Dunham noted that he and Mr. Lapp have discussed...if we are going to take the Wing School down we should not spend a lot of money on it.

Mr. Snyder – we don’t have the money for this.

Mr. Dunham – this is actually going to be the FY’18 budget.

Ms. Grundman noted that at tomorrow night’s School Committee meeting they will be talking about the plan for the Wing School.

Mr. Dunham noted that the names of the Finance Committee members are printed on the cover of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Please review and let him know if there are any changes.

Ms. Grundman – Mr. Parini asked the Committee to wait to vote on the Warrant articles until next week when he will be here.

ITEM #6
OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Grundman asked the Committee members to think about recommendations as part of the report to Town Meeting.

Mr. Snyder - do we have a copy of the recommendations from last year...it would be a good guide point.

Ms. Grundman – yes, sent it with two attachments...will resend.

Mr. Witham, regarding the questions posed to the School Committee, noted that he was very pleased with the answers he received...he learned a lot. Noticed two items for \$13,000 from the School Boosters Group that should not be in the budget. Cannot support this School Committee budget because he believes those two things are illegal...in its present state. There is actual a \$13,000 deficit...less these \$13,000.

Ms. Grundman noted that she will reach out to the Chairman of the School Committee and bring this to their attention.

ITEM #7
NEW BUSINESS

Brief discussion on educational funding, chapter 70 and Charter School Funding.

Ms. Grundman noted that the Chairman of the School Committee, Nancy Crossman, has advised that many towns are signing on to asking the legislature to consider changing the Chapter 70 funding. Ms. Crossman will be coming in to discuss and explain why they are asking towns to sign on.

Mr. Witham – We need to look at this from both positions to make sure if we sign on it doesn't cost the town anything.

Ms. Grundman – do you want a presentation, should we invite Ms. Crossman to come in to talk with us?

Mr. Witham – I want to make sure we have someone who knows a lot about this to come. It is possible that Sandwich could take a big hit. Dave Tobin of Mass. Tax Payers Association knows the formula.

Ms. Grundman noted that we could reach out to him.

Mr. Dunham noted that Mass. Municipal Association is usually supportive...it would be interesting to see how that would come out.

CLOSING REMARKS

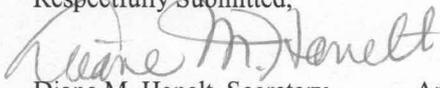
Ms. Grundman thanked Matt Terry for his years of service to the Finance Committee and wished him well going forward.

ITEM #9

ADJOURNMENT

7:55 p.m. *MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. SNYDER. SECONDED BY MR. REILLY. VOTE – UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

Approved: _____

3/29/16

Supporting Documents:

- Matt Terry's Resignation e-mail
- Town of Sandwich FY17 Budget
- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'17 (Selectmen Recommendation Voted 2/25/16)
- FY'17 Budget Totals (GHD Draft 3/17/16)
- FY'17 Recommended General Government Budget (GHD Draft 3/17/2016)
- FY'17 Capital Budget Summary
- Various Financial Plan Tables
- Ambulance Receipt Account History
- Warrant / Annual Town Meeting, Monday, May 2, 2016
- Pavement Management Update – Roads & Town Infrastructure Improvements (DPW 11/19/15)
- Pavement Management Study
- Funding Options
- Public Safety Planning Project /with schematic drawings (Board of Selectmen meeting 3/17/16)
- Proposed Adding eight Firefighters
- Summary of CPC Approved Projects / Annual Town Meeting 5/2/16