

Finance Committee Meeting

January 5, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 130
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Chris Smith, Chairman
Craig Schultze, Vice Chair
Jennifer Soule, Clerk
John Burns
Peter Jurmain
Rick Manburg
Richard Molloy
Jim Smith
Susan Vecchi
Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator
Charles Vecchi, Board of Selectmen

Chris Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Oak Grove Farm Revolving Fund:

Charles Aspinwall:

The request is for expenses to the fund in excess of \$10,000.00. Steven MacInnes will attend the January 12, 2011 meeting to make the request.

Review FY12 Budget Presentation Schedule:

Time allotment for department presentations as well as the next group of departments to contact to set up a presentation date and time was discussed.

Old Business/New Business:

Chris Smith:

The School Department's FY12 budget if level funded would total approximately \$11,209,000.00. Most likely, a budget of \$12,190,000.00 will be requested due in part to the following:

\$300,000.00 Federal funding will not be available next year
\$300,000.00 Step and lane salary increases
\$160,000.00 Out of district tuition fees
\$ 50,000.00 Additional transportation costs
\$ 15,000.00 Additional utility costs
\$ 26,000.00 Additional Virtual High School costs
As well as a 2% increase in expenses

The critical needs request will be approximately \$415,000.00 bringing a potential budget request to \$12,605,000.00

The Strategic Budget Committee met Monday, January 3, 2011. An override of \$1.2 million is a best case scenario. The majority of the override would go toward the School Department's budget. A worst case scenario would be a \$2 million override. The difference would depend on increases in healthcare costs and less state funding.

Peter Jurmain's Email:

Mr. Jurmain had good intentions in writing the email which was initially interpreted different ways by the committee.

The two points that struck a chord with some of the committee was the following:

"I am concerned that the FinCom and the community at large be made aware in detail of the issues confronting the various Town departments and what the impact of various funding levels may have on Town operations. To this end, we should be aware of:

- Individuals (not necessarily by name but by position) who have been working overtime but not receiving appropriate compensation in an effort to better understand the consequences of the present budget crisis
- Individuals who have been working at higher levels than the grade for which they were hired or employee contracts that haven't been renegotiated in an effort to remain within the existing budget constraints"

After lengthy discussion it was agreed Town salaried employees are paid to do a job, they are not paid by the hour. Hourly employees are paid overtime for all work performed after 40 hours per week. The Town abides by all labor laws. Also, it is not practical to require departments to present budgets that are not financially realistic at this time.

All Strategic Budget Committee meetings are open meetings. The committee members were appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee members who are members of the Strategic Budget Committee have given updates to the Finance Committee regularly. The Strategic Budget Committee will be presenting their recommendations on Monday, February 14, 2011.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

January 12, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

January 19, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

January 26, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

February 2, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

February 9, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

February 16, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

Minutes Approval:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to accept the December 1, 2010 meeting minutes as written, John Burns seconded. Vote: 6/0 motion carries

Adjourn:

Jennifer Soule made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm; Jim Smith seconded, Vote 9/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore