

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2013

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 20, 2013. Present were John Cotter, Peggy Wood, Mark Walker, Andy Cardarelli, and Stephanie M Clougherty. Absent: Judith Fitzgerald, Scott Martin

Finance Committee meeting was held as a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and School Committee.

Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

There were no public comments.  
School committee budget presentation.  
Opening discussion of academic achievements.  
Accreditation. Accomplishments.

Technical difficulties with projector.

Prayer by Reverend Merritt for Oklahoma Tornado Victims.

Discussion of Cost Centers by Pat Meagher & Liz Sorrell  
2014 Budget Presentation

Salary Increase due to returning teachers - budgeted & unbudgeted.  
Step increases. Typical 4+%. Step 9 to Step 10 is 15%.  
72% of current teachers at step 10.  
Total 12 retirements so far.

Education jobs bill grant is gone & was put towards health care cost.  
Total granted was \$600k.

Circuit breaker every dollar over \$40k per student is reimbursed between 40-70%  
This year est at low 70's paid a year in arrears.

School choice - 10 slots open. This year \$50 k. Previously was 12 spots.  
Used the \$60k to save a teachers job.  
No transportation costs per student.

John Cotter question charter schools & school choice.  
Rick LaFond cherry sheet figures that are withheld at state level.

Funds paying for charter school are not reflected in the budget but they are withheld from our state reimbursement versus school choice which is shown as it is money received.

36 vs 24 in out of district services. Saving \$500k by having programs in Carver.

\$623k gap.

Ins cost reduction - in negotiations

School choice - \$60k

Retirements - still getting them in.

Chapter 70 money - \$44k

Superintendent will be able to close the gap without Town assistance.

Discussion of unfunded MA state mandates that must be instituted regardless of funding or budget.

Fingerprinting everyone in school system per state. 46 states already have this system in place. Unfunded mandate.

OPEB question by Helen Marrone. Not in budget. Cannot save for anything.

Not allowed to carry over funds.

Contract negotiating 3 year contracts.

2.5 to 5.25 in all other south shore towns. Teachers gave concessions of over \$200k of salary increases in their last contract.

Kindergarten program no cost to families. Huge savings to parents. Accredited.

No new programs currently. Over \$400k new known expenses for next year.

Creative hiring process in selecting candidates who can offer diversity or training of current staff.

Grants for teacher quality - training existing teachers to introduce new programs.

Most communities attach dedicated funds. Not unpredictable health care costs.

Contracts concessions over 5 years 0/0/0/1/2

Health insurance joined gateway group to save money

Looking towards GIC plan adoption.

Sped - team process. Director of SE 99% & 1% consultant decision.

John Cotter questioning budget figures vs actuals for utilities.

Pat Meagher saying it is not worth the risk. Liz Sorrell cannot afford to lower budget.  
School has 3 fte technology staff. All equip funds come from capital outlay.

Parcc program 2015 will need at least one entire grade level to take MCAS becoming PARCC program.

Programs in place for tablet use & maintenance.  
Liz they have a 5 year technology plan that addresses those issues  
Sped students do take them home.

DOE transportation report based on total students not bus riders.  
Roughly 60 kids are dropped off at Elementary School  
Only very few students walk to MS/HS.

Further discussion on rfp for contracting out bus service.  
We are well below state avg. our bus drivers are fully trained including epi pen & CPR & first aid. Not always provided. Also do not currently pay for unemployment benefits over July & August per contract.

Asked for cost of resource officer & technology teacher.

Recess 9-9:15pm

Reconvene meeting at 9:15pm.

Discuss possible outside counsel with Rick LaFond's contract with the town of Abington.

Discussion of appointing Jim Grimes to Audit Committee.  
Dick Ward would like a committee plan similar to surrounding communities versus appointing people with a mission statement or committee plan.

Jim Grimes discussing accusations made & documents to Mr O'Donnell regarding past business dealings. Allegations of bribery or threats against selectmen if appointing him.

Review & discussion of Town Administrator Budget  
Questions regarding changes to budgets.  
Discussion of planning for fugue savings plan for capital projects including a new school, fire & police station.

Ron Clarke presentation of capital outlay committee recommendations.

John Cotter fin com will not vote on town budget as presented due to missing documentation

Fin Com vote to approve capital outlay budget

Motion Andy Cardarelli

Seconded by Mark Walker

Unanimous vote 5-0 yes

Review & Recommendation of Special Town Meeting & Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

John Cotter mentioned that the Finance Committee will not be voting on above items mentioned. We have a meeting on Friday to review them & vote, however, we would like to participate in discussion of warrants.

Peggy Wood motioned to end meeting.

Andy Cardarelli seconded the motion.

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 11:43pm.

Approval on minutes

Motion Andy Cardarelli

Seconded Peggy Wood

Unanimous vote 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie M Clougherty, Acting Secretary