

Wellfleet Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of December 12, 2013
Council on Aging Building, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Berta Bruinooge, Chair person, John Morrissey, Dennis Murphy, Paul Pilcher; Town Administrator Harry Sarkis Terkanian and FinCom members: Stephen Polowczyk, Chairman, Ira Wood, Robert Wallace, Samuel Bradford, Janet Loewenstein, Linda Pellegrino, Sylvia Smith and Thomas Reinhart

Regrets: Selectman Jerry Houk and FinCom Member Elizabeth Sorrell

Chairperson Berta Bruinooge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Announcements, Open Session and Public Comment

There were no announcements from the Selectmen or public comment from the audience.

Business - FY15 Budget Reviews

Wellfleet Elementary School and Nauset Regional School District FY15 Budget Discussion

Wellfleet Elementary School Principal Mary Beth Rodman and School Committee Chair Janis Plaue discussed the preliminary FY15 budget for Wellfleet Elementary School. According to Plaue the first draft showed less than a 2% increase in overall expenses and they expected the final budget to be less than 2.5%. They reported that enrollment was down and there will be one less class for the 2014-2015 school year, but Plaue clarified that although there are fewer students enrolled, there is a growing number of students with special needs at a higher cost to provide services to. Nauset Regional School Superintendent Richard Hoffman was also present for the discussion and he said that there are fewer students from Wellfleet attending the regional schools in the next cycle, lowering the Town's contribution to the regional school budget by approximately \$150,000. Other factors that may affect the overall regional budget which will be finalized on March 6, 2014 included union and non-union teacher contract negotiations and a transportation bid. Proposed capital expenses included the implementation of a technology plan for the middle school at a cost of \$1+ million and the replacement of the middle school roof. The region will also likely begin funding their Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) in this proposed budget. Morrissey asked about parent contribution for portable devices for the students and Hoffman said a \$125 fee per year (or less based on need) was being considered. Hoffman will give an overview of the technology plan in the future. Finance Committee member Tom Rinehart asked about student attrition when the new Monomoy Regional High School opens. Hoffman said that there are currently 100 students from Chatham and Harwich and there would have to be teacher lay offs if that many students were lost. Terkanian gave a general overview of the school budget and said that the biggest increase in the current school budget was due to state assessment formula and student enrollment increases at the Cape Cod Regional Technical School.

Department of Public Works Budget¹: Mark Vincent, DPW Director, went over the proposed FY15 Department of Public Works (DPW) budget. Major changes from FY14: The Facilities budget (433) would increase a total of \$21,000 due to propane increase of \$5,000 and other maintenance

related items. Highway (422) would decrease by \$500. Operations (420) would be \$10,000 less than in FY14 budget but does not include the requested facilities manager position in the current assessment. Morrissey had concerns about facilities and the fact that there was very little DPW involvement in terms of overseeing contract work. Terkanian said snow plowing budget should not be reduced. The Streetlights were level funded but should be at 50% savings with new LED being installed. (433) Transfer Station would be at only \$100 increase. Vincent explained that there would be a FY15 decrease in the salary line because staff levels have decreased. The FinCom members asked if contract services are more expensive than hiring in-house. Vincent said it would take several years to ascertain. The greatest cost increase in the budget was due to the USDA grant on the Commercial Street drainage project that holds DPW responsible for maintenance work. There was also a \$7,000 increases in the Transfer Station budget, due to the rising cost of diesel fuel.

Marina Enterprise Fund²: Michael Flanagan, Harbormaster, presented the FY15 Marina Enterprise Fund Budget. He said that he tried to keep the budget level funded. The salaries were still being negotiated. He went over several line items and changes: credit card fees went up. Overall, the salaries increased by 2.77%. The expenditures would be level funded. In FY15 the debt service payment will go down due to the completion of payments on Marina paving. The largest increase would be the health insurance costs because of the Assistant Harbormaster hire. Pilcher asked if all the expenses listed in the budget were covered by the Marina Enterprise Fund. Flanagan concurred and said that the Marina paid \$55,289 to the General Fund. Morrissey asked about the dredging project in 2015. Flanagan said it hinged on a turtle study so that they can figure out when to begin dredging. A conversation ensued with the FinCom and Selectmen about the need to look into funding options for the \$8 million dredging project, since there is no capital plan in place to pay for it. Flanagan said that he would have to go to Town Meeting to ask for funding and that the State would likely pick up 75% of the cost. There was a general agreement that dredging is a vital project to the Town and that there should be a plan in place to build up funding so it has the least impact on the taxpayer.

Police Department Budget³: Police Chief Ronald Fisette and Lt. Michael Hurley presented the FY15 Police budget. Fisette explained that he accomplished the four goals laid out in the budget plan: 1. Decrease for current fiscal year due to higher level staff retirements. 2. Adjusted overtime. Have the lowest over time than any of the Lower Cape towns. 3. Salaries went down. 4. Expenses are flat lines with two adjustments. Fisette explained that he added \$1,200 for drug investigations. He added that the proposed budget did not reflect salary cost in negotiations or the requested new police officer. Communications line item increased due to negotiated salaries. The rest of the proposed FY15 budget was level funded.

Water Enterprise Fund⁴: Board of Water Commissioners Chair person Justina Carlson and member Jim Hood presented the proposed FY15 budget. They explained that the biggest jump came from increase for budgeted staffing needs which is a placeholder for a position being reviewed by the Personnel Board. The rest of the increase was in the 3% range to reflect the inflation levels for expenses like electricity, gas, telephone, postage, etc. The line items for contract services and legal services were cut. The revenue number will most likely extend for a 10-year period because of deferred payments. Since the municipal water sign ups are voluntary it is not a line item that could be predicted with complete accuracy. Morrissey recognize that the BWC are volunteers.

Fire Department Budget⁵: Fire Chief Richard Pauley and Theresa Townsend presented the FY15 for the Fire Department. The proposed budget reflected \$97,605 salary for Richard Pauley. Pauley

said the call force was up to 16 members and that every member of the Fire Department was certified as an EMT. He also presented three memos: First a 35-hour Administrative Assistant position that he would like to bring to 40 hours to handle increased record keeping of department members that will not be handled by the State. He explained that it would have to be bargained with the unit to keep the same rate. Second memo was about stipends for on-call Fire Department members. He wanted to increase to provide incentives to get more people on-call. In the third memo Pauley also asked for an additional 40-hour position during the peak summer season. Pilcher suggested a hire of a temp staff to do the additional paperwork. Terkanian suggested adding extra call members for the busiest time and would have to look in the scope of the collective bargaining unit. Pauley then went over the estimated FY15 expense increases and reductions. According to him the over time training has always been of concern.

Adjournment

Motion 14-121: Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting. Pilcher seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Voll, Executive Assistant

Edited by Michaela Miteva, Executive Assistant

¹ DPW Budget Estimates FY 2015

² Marina Enterprise Fund Estimates FY 2015

³ Police Department Budget Estimates FY 2015

⁴ Water Enterprise Fund Estimates FY 2015

⁵ Fire Department Budget Estimates FY 2015