



Town of Hanson

Finance Committee

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Minutes of: April 21, 2015

Meeting Opened: 7:30 PM
Adjourned: 10:35 PM

M: SM (2nd) MW V: 4-0

	Barbara Arena <i>Chair</i>	Steve McKinnon <i>Vice Chair</i>	Joe Pelligra	OPEN	Michael Wojdaga	Teresa Fettig	Michael Dugan
Present	✓	✓	A		✓	A	✓
Exp	6/30/15	6/30/16	6/30/15	6/30/16	6/30/16	6/30/15	6/30/2017
Time							

Also Present: Bruce Young, Chairman, Board of Selectmen
James McGahan, Selectman
Ron SanAngelo – Town Administrator
Todd Hassett – Town Accountant

Reserve Fund Requests

No pending reserve fund requests. Reserve fund balance of \$23K confirmed with Accountant.

Review of Revised 2016 Budget

The Town Accountant clarified and answered FinCom questions regarding Sources and Uses and reiterated that Wage & Personnel salaries have been increased at 2% or as contracts stipulate. Needs Merry to confirm and adjust. (Merry out sick and on bereavement.)

Recreation - \$145,000 for a 9 month period this year based on old rates, grandfathered new rates. Expenses can fluctuate based on outsourced projects, snow, tiles, and unforeseen expenses. Cannot spend more than they bring in.

Enterprise Fund – Currently \$107,000; will monitor for one year to get a good handle on costs.

Transfer Station's program, Pay As You Throw, is fairly new. Would like program to run for one more year to reflect some historical costs.

The only other adjustment is Norfolk Agriculture. Because we are receiving conflicting information, it was decided to leave the number in the budget as is and adjust in October. \$21,053 per student plus approximately \$13,500 for transportation. Mr. Hassett departed the meeting at 7:40pm.

Selectman McGahan addressed the need to have Wampatuck Pond evaluated for contaminants and clean up recommendations. It was further stated by Selectman McGahan that the language should be changed in the STM Article 5 explanation to breakout types of testing planned.

2015 Opening Reserve Fund Balance:	\$86,187
8/12 Town Hall Phone System:	(\$15,000)
1/6/15 Approvals:	
BOH - VNA Services	(\$2,000)
HWY - Equipment Repair	(\$3,500)
HWY - Overtime	(\$4,000)
Tree Warden - Tree Removal	(\$6,500)
2/24/15 Balance:	\$55,187
3/24/15 Approvals:	
BOH – VNA Services	(\$1,168)
Library – Remove snow from roof	(\$5,500)
Highway – Repair	(\$6,733)
Highway – Traffic Light	(\$2,724)
Highway – Meals	(\$3,313)
3/24/15 Balance:	\$35,749
3/31/15 Approvals:	
BOH – Contracted Services	(\$3,500)
3/31/15 Balance:	\$32,249
4/7/15 Approvals:	
Veterans' Services	(\$8,875)
	\$23,374

A detailed discussion was held regarding the omission of \$80,000 from ATM Article 9 for the fire alarm and smoke detectors for Indian Head and Middle Schools by Selectman McGahan. It was noted that this was voted in at the Selectmen's meeting. Selectman McGahan will follow-up with the necessary parties to determine what the status is on this Article. Will confirm status at the next FinCom meeting scheduled for 4/23/15.

Discuss/Review/Recommend Revised 2016 Budget Line Items

The following budget line recommendations were made with Motion to Approve by SM, 2nd by MW with 4-0 vote/unanimously as follows:

- 1 – Selectmen/Administration - \$163,055
- 2 – Selectmen/Administration - \$25,635
- 6 – Accountant Salaries - \$107,095
- 9 – Assessor's Salaries - \$103,656
- 11 – Treasurer/Collector Salaries - \$179,940
- 15 – Info Technology Expenses - \$120,000
- 16 – Town Clerk Salaries - \$105,549
- 18 – Elections - \$7,169
- 21 – Board of Registrars - \$6,477
- 23 – Conservation Commission - \$57,657
- 25 – Planning Board - \$62,998
- 27 – Appeals Board – \$33,379
- 31 – Municipal Buildings - \$50,393
- 33 – Utilities - \$109,145
- 34 – Police - \$1,796,387
- 35 – Police - \$164,208
- 35 – Police – Reopen – Recommend 4 – 0
Amend \$164,208 to \$164,210 – Recommend 4 – 0
- 36 – Police - \$121,000
- 37 – Communications - \$345,880
- 38 – Communications - \$35,550
- 39 – Fire & Ambulance - \$1,606,727
- 41 – Fire & Ambulance - \$0
- 42 – Building Inspection – \$78,662
- 43 – Building Inspection - \$7,000
- 44 – Gas Inspection - \$5,718
- 45 – Gas Inspection - \$0
- 46 – Plumbing Inspection - \$5,501
- 47 – Plumbing Inspection - \$0
- 48 – Weights & Measures - \$3,247
- 49 – Weights & Measures - \$400
- 50 – Wiring Inspection - \$17,404
- 51 – Wiring Inspection - \$0
- 52 – Animal Control - \$28,630
- 53 – Animal Control - \$0
- 54 – Tree Warden - \$2,881
- 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 – Education – as presented
- 61 – Public Works, Engineering – Amend \$13,000 to \$8,500 – Recommend 4 - 0
- 62, 63, 64, 65 – Highway – as presented
- 66 – Town-Wide Fuel – as presented
- 72 – Council on Aging - \$71,307
- 79, 80, 81, 82, 83 – Culture & Recreation – as presented
- 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 – Fixed Costs – as presented
- 94, 95, 96 – Recreation – as presented

The following lines were held pending further budget adjustment considerations:

Line 40 – Fire & Ambulance Expenses – FinCom to consider department request for additional training if funding source available.

Line 55 – Tree Warden Expenses – FinCom to consider increasing to fund additional expense if funding source available.

Lines 67-71 and 97-99 were held by Committee pending availability of member, Joe Pelligra, to allow input as he was a former member of the Board of Health.

9:25 p.m. Ms. Arena recognized Bruce Young. Mr. Young stated he was in attendance to discuss the Finance Committee's recommendation of Article 26 of the Annual Town Meeting (FinCom voted 4-1 NOT to recommend on 4/14).

Mr. Young stated his reasons for authoring the article supporting the change for a 2/3 vote to be required at town meeting for borrowing related to the schools located in the town of Hanson. Mr. Young stated that if a 2/3rds vote at Town meeting is required for \$900K long term debt, then the \$60 million school borrowing should as well. The School Committee ("SC") is responsible for appropriating money, with 2/3rds vote of the SC to authorize borrowing. Mr. Young's position is that all long term debt should go to town meeting to discuss, then require 2/3rds vote on whether to go to ballot with the election deciding.

Mr. Wojdag responded that the 2/3rds requirement empowers 1/3rd of those in attendance at town meeting control. Mr. Wojdag cited the following example: If there are 10,000 at town meeting and 6,665 say yes and remainder says no, it stops. Attendance at town meeting can be biased with one side packing in their buddies with a 60/40 vote at town meeting preventing a town-wide ballot. A town-wide ballot is a better representation of the citizens' desires and allows greater participation. Mr. Wojdag noted that the positioning of school articles at the end of town meeting further biases as people may have left.

Mr. Young added that there is no requirement to discuss specific dollars on school ballot question. You have to talk about dollars at town meeting, but not on ballot. If you don't know details, you don't know what you are voting on.

Mr. Young emphasized his desire for consistency with 2/3rds required at town meeting and majority at ballot as for all other borrowing. Ms. Arena asked why not majority for everything? Mr. Young responded that we cannot do that as it would require a legislative act.

Mr. Wojdag stated that the existing regional school borrowing legislation requiring majority vote works. Last year's proposed school building went to the ballot and failed by majority vote. The accessibility for voters to participate in an election is greater than participation at town meeting.

Mr. Young stated that the town has historically voted for everything for schools with 2/3 vote. If we were wrong, why did we do it - based on town counsel opinion. Town counsel's opinion now is that we don't need 2/3. That's just their opinion.

The people have to decide whether it goes to ballot. Let people decide majority or 2/3 vote. Passage of this article at town meeting (majority vote) would be followed by a ballot question at the May 16, 2015 election requesting petition to adopt special legislation to make the change.

Mr. Wojdag asked Mr. Young why are the school articles separated, specifically the borrowing proposed for the school computers (Article 25 of Annual)? Noting that people have left by the time they come up. Mr. Young stated the positioning for emphasis of what items require a 2/3rds versus majority.

9:42 p.m. Ms. Arena thanked Mr. Young for his contribution and the committee's understanding of this article and appreciation of his passion.

9:45 p.m. Mr. Young left the meeting

ATM Warrant Articles

5 – BOS Budget - HOLD

6 – Recreation, Enterprise Fund - Recommend 4 – 0

7 – BOH, Enterprise Fund - HOLD

9 – Capital Improvement – Reopen to include \$80,000 for fire alarm and smoke detectors at Indian Head and Middle School

STM Warrant Articles

Motions by SM, 2nd by MW

1 – Recommend 4-0

2 – HOLD

3 – Recommend 4-0

4 – Recommend 4-0

5 – HOLD

7 – Recommend 4-0

8 – Recommend 3-1

9 – Recommend 3-1

10 – Recommend 3-1

11 – Recommend 4-0

12 – Recommend 3-1

13 – Recommend 4-0

14 – Recommend 4-0

15 – Recommend 4-0

16 – Recommend 4-0

17 – Not Recommend – 4-0

18 – Recommend 4-0

19 – Recommend 4-0

20 – Recommend 4-0

21 – Recommend 4-0

22 – Recommend 4-0

23 – Recommend 4-0

24 – Recommend 4-0

STM Warrant Articles – HOLD

Article 2 – Item 5 – Fuel – actual expenses/budget

Items 6 and 7 -- BOH – RFT's funded?

Article 5 – Study Wampatuck Pond – needs language clarification

Future Meeting Date: 4/23/15

Adjourned: 10:35pm - Motion to Adjourn by SM, 2nd by MW, Vote: 4-0