

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2007

Present: Al DeVito - chair, Richard Knabel, Ann Nelson and Brian Athearn.

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant, Dianne Powers and Skipper Manter – Selectmen, and Margaret Logue.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes of the May 15 minutes were approved as written.

Correspondence:

Al read a letter from Dr. James Weiss, Superintendent of Schools, regarding the formation of a committee to look at the wealth formula at the high school. There will be a “Next Step Meeting” in the Library Conference Room at the high school on Wednesday, June 27 at 4:30. Dr. Weiss is requesting the appointment of one FinCom member on the committee. Brian made a motion recommending Al serve in this position which was seconded by Ann. The motion passed 3-0-1, Al abstaining.

Meeting with Selectmen and School Committee:

There will be a meeting on June 13 at 5:30 at the Howes House to discuss the school budget process. FinCom members are looking for a budget that can be clearly understood by not only the FinCom, but also the voters, and which can be clearly and accurately explained by School Committee members should there be any questions. At present, this does not exist. Dianne Powers expressed hopes the meeting will include an overview of the budget process, an opportunity for FinCom members to express their concerns and a response from School Committee members. FinCom members would like to know the per pupil cost for the UIRSD.

Meeting with Personnel Board:

On Monday, June 18 at 5:30 there will be a meeting at the Public Safety Building with the Personnel Board to understand what they do to determine COLA, how they do it, and a discussion to have them revise the process.

Meeting with Capital Improvement Committee:

The Capital Improvement Committee will attend the July 10 FinCom meeting to clarify its role.

The election of a chairperson has been postponed to the July meeting when all members will be present.

Old Business:

There was a review of the failure at the April Town Meeting to convince voters to turn down the budget and to withdraw from the UIRSD. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of sending a survey to all the voters. Given the lack of response to other town surveys and an unclear picture of the value to the committee, the general feeling was not to pursue this effort.

Ann attended a FinCom Forum where she met the field representative for West Tisbury. The rep highly commended Bruce for the work he does as our town accountant. Bruce was thanked for the excellent overview he provides of the town’s finances.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk