

FINAL

Town of Weare Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday, January 23, 2011

This recessed meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Conservation Committee Room of the Town Office and was called to order by the chairman at 6:35 p.m.

Present were Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood (chairman), Johnna Grzywacz, Neal Kurk, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, and Mark Sullivan.

The committee discussed the upcoming deliberative session and its recommendations to voters for that meeting. Members agreed that, after hearing the discussion at the deliberative session, the committee might change its recommendations for the voting session.

1. **Operating budget recommendations:** members discussed the three operating budgets and levels of expenditure that taxpayers could support.
 - a. John Stark: members agreed that a 2% reduction from proposed 11/12 spending levels would be appropriate and possible, considering the decline in enrollment and the increase in per pupil cost over the past five years. At the request of the superintendent, the chairman sent an email containing areas the school board might consider reducing. No response has been received.
 - b. Weare schools: members agreed that a 1% reduction from the proposed 11/12 spending levels would be appropriate and possible. Significantly lower per pupil costs than most other comparable school districts suggested more prudent management than in Stark and somewhat less room to reduce costs without compromising services. The chairman is to email the superintendent with an offer to provide possible areas to consider.
 - c. Weare town: members agreed that level funding the operating budget at the 2010 amount was appropriate and possible. This would reduce a selectman-proposed 5.5% increase to 0%. The chairman is to email the selectmen with an offer to provide possible areas to consider.
2. **Warrant article recommendations:** members considered other town warrant articles and agreed on the following recommendations for the deliberative session:
 - a. Art. 6 (fire truck): no.
 - b. Art. 7: no recommendation at this time.
 - c. Art. 8: no recommendation at this time.

- d. Art. 9: yes.
- e. Art 10 (highway equipment): no.
- f. Art. 11: no recommendation at this time.
- g. Art. 12: no recommendation at this time.
- h. Art. 13: yes.
- i. Art. 14: yes.
- j. Art. 15 (hazardous waste day): yes.
- k. Art. 16 (fireworks): no.
- l. Art. 17 (library): no.
- m. Art. 18: yes.
- n. Art 19 (Weare's 250th anniversary celebration): yes.
- o. Art. 20: no.
- p. Art 21: yes.

Members agreed to review Jill's first draft of written explanations for its recommendations at the committee's next meeting.

3. **Next meeting; adjournment:** after noting that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at 7 p.m. in the Conservation Room, the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk, Secretary