

**FINAL**  
Town of Weare  
**Finance Committee Minutes**  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 and Friday, January 20, 2012

This meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Conservation Room of the Town Office Building and was called to order by the Gregg Elwood at 7:00PM

Present were Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood (chairman), Neal Kurk, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring, Paul Marsh and Johnna Grzywacz. Visitors: Lee Marcroft and Frank Campana (January 18, 2012 only)

1. **Budget:** The overall change for all three budgets, assuming all items pass, would be a 6.84% or \$1.41 increase over last year (which on a \$250k house would be an annual tax increase of \$352.50) The committee reviewed the Town budget and warrant articles and took a straw poll on each item and started drafting preliminary language for recommendations.
  - a. Article 9 – (Operating Budget) 8-0 (with caveat – wording to be discussed at next meeting)
  - b. Article 10 – (Merit Raises) 4-4
  - c. Article 11 – (Public Works Employees Contract) 0-8
  - d. Article 12 – (Fire Truck) 8-0
  - e. Article 13 – (Defibrillator) 7-1
  - f. Article 14 – (Road Reconstruction) 8-0
  - g. Article 15 – (Backhoe/Pickup) 6-2
  - h. Article 16 – (Trailer/Baler) 8-0
  - i. Article 17 – (Cruiser) 3-5
  - j. Article 18 – (Communications Fund) 8-0
  - k. Article 19 – (Computers) 8-0 (with caveat – wording to be discussed at next meeting)
  - l. Article 20 – (Retirement Accrual Fund) 3-5
  - m. Article 21 – (Library – Additional Hours) 7-1
  - n. Article 22 – (Cemetery Trust) 8-0
  - o. Article 23 – (Hazardous Waste Day) 8-0
  - p. Article 24 – (Fireworks) 6-2
  - q. Article 25 – (Conservation Commission) 8-0
  - r. Article 28 – (Finance Committee) 8-0
2. **Continuation of Meeting:** The meeting was continued until January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the Town Office building. The chairman continued the meeting at 9:03PM and the meeting was reconvened on January 20, 2012 in the Conservation Committee Room of the Town Office Building and was called to order by the Gregg Elwood at 6:00 p.m.
3. **Minutes:** On motion by Ike, seconded by Johnna, the minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2012, were approved as written.
4. **Town recommendations:** Having been made at the first part of the meeting, these were reviewed. It was agreed that the committee would meet with the

selectmen at the latter's meeting this coming Monday, January 23, 2012, at 7:15 p.m. to discuss:

- a. computer maintenance amounts, considering warrant Article 19 replaces some major pieces of equipment;
- b. Article 10 (non-union employee wages), with a view to having the selectmen implement a cost-sharing arrangement for employee health insurance; and
- c. Article 9 (town budget), with a view to reducing the police component to its default level, the other components having been addressed commendably.

**5. John Stark school recommendations:** After reviewing the school district's warrant, the committee voted as follows:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| a. Article 3 (budget):                         | recommend, 8-0 |
| b. Article 4 (teachers' contract)              | recommend, 8-0 |
| c. Article 6 (support staff contract)          | recommend, 8-0 |
| d. Article 8 (building maintenance, etc. fund) | recommend, 7-1 |
| e. Article 9 (special education fund)          | recommend, 6-2 |

**6. Weare schools recommendations:** After reviewing the school district's warrant, the committee voted as follows:

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Article 3 (budget)                 | not recommend, 2-6 |
| b. Article 4 (teachers' contract)     | recommend, 6-2     |
| c. Article 6 (building fund)          | recommend, 8-0     |
| d. Article 7 (special education fund) | recommend, 6-2     |

**7. Financial impacts:** The committee reviewed its recommendations and estimated the financial impact on the tax rate: the estimated tax rate for 2012 would be:

a.	Town	\$3.41
	Weare schools	7.99
	John Stark	6.42
	County	1.10
	State	2.34
	Total	\$21.26

This represents an increase of \$.66, or 3.2%, over the 2011 tax rate of \$20.60.

**b.** On a typical home: if the home is assessed at \$250,000, property taxes will increase by \$165, from \$5,150 in 2011 to \$5,315 in 2012.

**c.** By a 7-1 vote, the committee determined that such an increase is acceptable.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Dagenais, Secretary