

**FINAL**  
Town of Weare  
**Finance Committee**

Minutes of the Organization Meeting  
of Wednesday, September 21, 2011

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

Present were Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood (chairman), Johnna Grzywacz, Neal Kurk, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring, and Mark Sullivan. Paul Marsh was unable to attend. Also in attendance were town moderator Jerry Little and Anne McCausland.

1. **Moderator's charge.** The town moderator distributed copies of the warrant article governing the Committee and discussed its responsibilities. He indicated the Committee's charge was quite broad.

2. **Communications with school and town boards.** Gregg related discussions with the Board of Selectmen about relations and communications between the two bodies. Much of the problem was created by impossible-to-comply-with time frames in the Committee's charge. In effect, the Committee must provide its budget recommendation to the several boards prior to the time the boards are required to submit their budgets to the Committee. There was some discussion of differing views of the Committee's role, that is, simply to react to and recommend warrant articles or to establish policies containing general budget objectives.

3. **Alternates.** The moderator raised the issue of appointing alternates to the Committee in addition to its nine members. It was determined that, in order to allow these individuals to sit in and vote in place of absent members, an amendment to the warrant article governing the Committee would have to be adopted by the voters. The moderator graciously agreed to provide a draft of such an article and to include in it changes in reporting timelines (see section 2 above).

3. **Election of officers.** On motions made and seconded, Gregg was nominated and elected chairman and Mark vice chairman. Similarly, Jill was elected secretary and Neal co-secretary.

4. **Subcommittees.** The chairman established three subcommittees:

Weare Schools:	Johnna, Paul and Neal
John Stark:	Mark, Jill and Gregg
Town:	Ike, Jeff and John

The first-named members were designated subcommittee heads.

5. **Role of alternates.** A discussion of a second type of alternate ensued, one who would attend meetings and, at the invitation of the chair, participate in discussion but not vote. Should a member resign, be removed or the position otherwise become vacant, the moderator would appoint an alternate to fill the vacancy. This would fill the

Committee's ranks with a knowledgeable individual up to date on the Committee's activities. Members agreed this would be a very positive arrangement until a warrant article creating alternates similar to those on the Zoning and Planning board is adopted at town meeting (see section 3 above).

**6. Meeting times.** It was agreed that the regular meetings of the Committee would be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Conservation Room of the Town Office Building, with the next meeting scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. After considerable discussion, it was decided not to hold televised meetings.

**7. Statement of goals and objectives.** The issue of whether the Committee should establish specific goals and objectives by which it would evaluate town and school budgets generated passionate discussion. A straw poll revealed that five members would prefer not to establish specific budget goals but would support a general fiscal responsibility standard. Three members would prefer to establish more specific standards for budget writers. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting, with members presenting draft language for the Committee's consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk, Co-Secretary