

Town of Weare
Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 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 7:02 p.m.

Present were Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood (chairman), Neal Kurk, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring, and Mark Sullivan. Paul Marsh and Johnna Grzywacz were unable to attend.

1. Finance Committee Ordinance: The committee members reviewed the information in the draft revised copy. Questions arose regarding timelines and the group agreed to review the information again at the next meeting once we have the missing information.

2. Subcommittees:

- A. Contract Information – before the next meeting the subcommittee chairs will find out which staff contracts are up for renegotiation, what the expected dollars are, and any other pertinent information. Ike will get the information for the Town, Mark for John Stark, and Johnna for Weare Schools
- B. The chairs for each subcommittee will be the point person for contact for each area – this should be helpful for continuity
- C. Gregg shared the year end reconciliation information for each area with the appropriate subcommittee members and also gave copies of the town information to all members

3. CIP (Capital Improvements Planning) subcommittee: Meeting dates/times were discussed. Ike will ask for copies of the minutes and updates from John Dowst.

4. Meeting Times: At the last meeting the group had agreed to meet the first Thursday of the month but in reviewing the school board meetings the group decided to schedule the meetings the week after the school board meetings to keep the information fresh in sharing it with the larger group. The Town Offices appear to be booked most Thursdays but John will check to see if the Library might be available those days.

5. Plan/Objective: The group discussed the concept of sharing an overall goal/objective to each of the budget areas in order to meet our task to “work cooperatively with the Selectmen, Town departments and School District to ensure that all the respective budgets will best serve the community’s needs” (from the Finance Committee Ordinance). After much discussion a majority of the group agreed to proceed with this and the following language was adopted:

It is the Finance Committee’s position that it would be prudent for the Town and School Districts to propose budgets that do not include increased expenses.

Any proposed increases, especially for new or expanded programs or services, should be set forth in separate warrant articles.

We will also look carefully at the affects of decreased revenues on the tax rate.

6. Previous Minutes: The group reviewed the previous minutes and made one grammatical change to item 6 (“in the” should be removed from the end of the sentence). John made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Jeff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on October 20th at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Dagenais, Secretary