

**Town of Bedford Finance Committee
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Bedford Town Hall**

Date: February 14, 2013

Finance Committee Attendees: Mike Seibert, Chair; Richard Bowen; Meredith McCulloch, Barbara Perry, Stephen Carluccio, Bob Kenney, Ben Thomas.

Finance Committee Members Absent: Tom Busa; Stephen Steele, Vice-Chair

Other Attendees: Selectmen: William Moonan, Margot Fleischman and Cathy Cordes; John Sills, Schools Superintendent; Anne Bickford, Chair School Committee; Richard Reed, Town Manager; Kim Siebert, The Bedford Citizen; Victor Garofalo, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector

Attachments/Handouts: Community Preservation FY2014 Budget, FY2014 Budget Model 3.3, Planned Utilization of FY14 Tax Levy Increase and All Revenue, Addition of One Employee to Grounds Division Presentation, Draft of Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Meeting Discussions and Actions:

1. Cathy Cordes presented the Community Preservation FY2014 budget. The total income and unrestricted fund balance of \$1,716,893.62 includes an estimated prior year undesignated fund balance of \$50,379.62. The Historic Preservation appropriation totals \$365,800. The Open Space appropriation would pay \$491,212.50 towards the bond payment for 350A Concord Road. 10 percent of the total balance is allocated toward Affordable Housing for a total of \$166,651.40. The Recreation appropriation totals \$636,299.00. CPC decided to pay cash instead of bonding their portion of high school turf project because it will save the Town \$40,000 in interest cost. The total for Administrative and General Reserves is \$56,900. Total FY14 appropriations equal \$1,716,862.90 leaving \$30.72 in the unrestricted fund balance. \$406,500 of the total funds capital requests.

Motion made by Richard to approve Article 22 – Amend FY13 Community Preservation Budget as printed in the warrant, seconded by Meredith. Approved 6-1-0.

Motion made by Richard to approve Article 23 – Community Preservation Budget – FY14, seconded by Barbara. Approved 6-1-0.

2. Victor reviewed Model 3.3 for FY14. The changes made at the 2/7/13 meeting were summarized. Some of the increases to the guideline include bonded capital projects, local receipts, water and sewer projects, new positions/FTE's, and salaries. The net change in revenue from FY13 to FY14 is \$1,276,571 which is almost equal to the total increase in budget changes at \$1,276,574.

3. Anne Bickford and John Sills were present to explain the need for an additional \$181,191. \$121,191 to fund a five day kindergarten program because of new state mandated changes to the curriculum and \$60,000 to cover the cost of transporting homeless students to schools. This money would be refunded after a one year time lag.

Richard Reed presented a memorandum from DPW Director Richard Warrington detailing the need for additional personnel in the grounds division by breaking down where the time would be spent.

Motion made by Barbara to add \$42,417 to the Selectmen's budget, seconded by Richard. Approved 7-0-0.

Motion made by Richard to approve an additional \$181,191 for the School's budget in addition to the \$600,000 already appropriated, seconded by Stephen C. Vote to approve the motion 4-3-0. Motion failed.

Motion made by Richard to approve an additional \$121,191 for the School's budget in addition to the \$600,000 already appropriated, seconded by Stephen C. Approved 7-0-0.

Motion made by Richard to approve \$60,000 over what was previously approved for the School Budget, seconded by Stephen C. Vote to approve motion 4-3-0. Motion failed.

Motion made by Bob to have the vocational education allocation remain at \$505,000, seconded by Stephen C. Approved 7-0-0.

A discussion ensued over whether to bond the energy project capital money and add it to the stabilization fund in the amount of \$339,096.

Meredith made a motion to bond \$339,096 for the energy project, seconded by Bob. Vote to approve motion 3-4-0. Motion failed.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval of the operating budget for FY14 equivalent to model 3.3 with the following changes, an additional \$42,417 in the Selectmen's budget, additional \$121,191 in the School's budget and the \$10,000 reduction in vocational education, seconded by Meredith. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval of the FY14 Ambulance Enterprise Fund as stated in model 3.3 with a subsidy of \$44,720, seconded by Barbara. Approved 7-0-0.

4. Warrant Article Recommendations were made.

Meredith made a motion to recommend approval of Article 17 - General Bylaw Amendment – Water System, seconded by Richard. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval of Article 18 – General Bylaw Amendment – Great Road Underground Utilities, seconded by Stephen C.

Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval of Article 21 Capital Projects Plan as printed in the draft warrant, seconded by Bob. Approved 7-0-0.

Stephen C. made a motion to recommend approval at Town Meeting of Article 24 – Supplement Operating Budgets for Fiscal Year 2013 and Articles of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Meredith. Approved 7-0-0.

Meredith made a motion to recommend approval of Article 29 – Salary Plan Additional Funding, seconded by Bob. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval as printed in the draft warrant of Article 30 – Other Post – Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Appropriation, seconded by Stephen C. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval of Article 31 – Massachusetts Health Care Security Trust, seconded by Barbara. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval as printed in the draft warrant of Article 32 – Supplement Accrued Sick Leave Fund, seconded by Stephen C. Approved 7-0-0.

Barbara made a motion to recommend approval of Article 33 – Stabilization Fund Appropriation with language that would appropriate \$50,000 or any sum, seconded by Bob. Approved 7-0-0.

Richard made a motion to recommend approval at Town Meeting for Article 34 – Free Cash, seconded by Meredith. Approved 7-0-0.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meetings Attended: Ben attended the Selectmen's meeting, which included discussion regarding the budget and warrant articles.

Open Discussion: none

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03pm, seconded by Stephen C. *Vote: 7-0-0.*

Finance Meeting Schedule: 2013-- February 28.