



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Grafton
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Minutes

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Public Meeting 7:30 PM

Public Hearing 8:00 PM

Finance Committee Conference Room

Public Meeting

The public meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM, with the following

Finance Committee members present:

Doris Metivier, Gary Murray, Dave Ross, Bob Foley, Bill Hanley, Sue Robbins

Finance Committee members absent:

Fred Churchill, Don Davison, Dharmesh Shah

Discussion Topics

- The Town Administrator will provide listing of properties that could be sold off.
- Notice given for shortfall for FY07
- Workers compensation
- Perrault Property

Negotiations have been dropped in the Town's interest in the Perrault Property.

\$1.4 million has been set aside and is a possibility that the funds needed will be placed on the May special town meeting warrant.

- One Grafton Common

Not considered to be a capital project.

Ruled out housing

Two separate articles needed/two override articles

Must meet ADA compliance.

- South Grafton Community House

Phase projects is a possibility.

Public hearing 8:00 PM

Finance Committee Chairman, Doris Metivier, opened the public hearing and turned the public hearing over to the Town Administrator, Natalie Lashmit, to present the proposed capital and operating budget.

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FY08 proposed budget presentation

- 8.3% increase for FY07 vs. 5.45% proposed increase for FY08

Significant impact on the operating budgets

- Lottery receipts

Reduced and the town will feel the impact for FY07 and in FY08.

This has not been projected in the proposed budget.

- Revenue

New funds from taxation

Taxable new growth \$310,000 short of last year.

Local receipts

Some of the funds are non recurring funds.

Local receipts at the 4.0 no change

275,000 building permits

Flynt Pond or Adams Road will probably go through the permit process.

If not, then the town will have to readjust the figures.

- Parks

Airport \$8,000.00 is remaining and the project is almost completed.

CPA funds have been a plus. Cannot be used for operating budgets.

- Schools

6% increase in their expenses plus the two mandated positions.

\$540,000.00 of increase in fixed costs.

\$1.2 million in new revenues to be shared between the schools 73% vs. municipal 27%

- New contracts

Potential for change

Police chief contract

Fire salary increase request- only a 3% much less than the Fire Dept. has requested.

- Budget sharing is where the difficulties lie.

Health Care

Workers' Comp

Tipping fees increase effective 1/2008

Sludge \$1,000.00 increase

Mosquito

Capital plan \$147,000.00 excess funds bondable item and will be used up

\$ 522,000.00 to the general fund

- Warrant articles

\$126,000.00 prior year articles

sidewalk

drainage

Blackstone x 2 (plan for the account- for the stabilization)

- Other

-\$49,000.00 Mosquito Control

Restaurant inspector

Landfill monitoring/sewer has been stepping up and taking care of this to date. DEP

requirement

Medicare claims

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Old police station

Non-profits are only allowed- awaiting bids

- Outside of the limits

South Grafton Community House

One Grafton Common

ADA compliance (elevator shaft)

Department heads will receive their copies and the posting of the proposed budget will be in the Grafton News

- Stabilization useage

Blackstone stabilization \$75,000.00

- Overlay reserve

Difficult year for the Assessor's office

Many appeals this year since the valuations are from the previous year.

- **Sanitation Revisit**

Funds set aside to offset the FY08 increased expenditure.

- **Group Health Insurance**

Includes the 2 additional school employees

- Circuit breaker \$500,000.00

- Town side has not met the requirements of responsibilities for increase in parks, etc.

- Formerly called Warep,

Communitites collaborating for trash hauling, salt bids, energy supplies, etc.

Sharing of adopt-a-field program by community groups

- **Questions asked by the public**

Mr. Rynning

Garbage pick up costs

Areas out to bid - bids competitive?

Superintendent Joe Connors -

Asked for consideration to find additional source of funding

Appreciative of Natalie's cooperation.

\$ 863,633.00 short after circuit breaker

4 points of fixed costs

contractual costs

transportation

sped assist

\$260,313.00 additional funds will be needed and the Superintendent Feels that it can be achieved. This would be a 5.7% increase in the budget from FY07 to FY08.

Chapter 70 funds is based on increased enrollment and will show an increase.

Not a level service budget.

- **Stabilization**

Can this be looked at again

Possible less into stabilization and more into the school.

This will be determined by Free Cash.

Yet Free cash will be less this year.

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- **Fisherville Mill**

FY08 any revenues will not be until this time.

Any funds should be set aside for the South Grafton impacted areas as the result of the Fisherville Mill development

- **Increase of fees?**

Town Administrator stated that the fees are pretty much in line.

- **Capital budget**

Middle School Roof

Leaks - A quote has not been given- it is a custodial quesstimate.

Continuing on patching the roof is being recommended by the Superintendent, if there has to be a choice between the education and maintenance.

- **Software for the Town**

A pricey project however, very much needed. Payment **plan?**

- **Reconstruction re: North Street**

Urgency?

Possibly the pipes have collapsed.

All Chapter 90 funds have been on the capital budget in prior years.

- **Capital Budget Summary (see memo)**

Funding up to dotted line

All of tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 with the exception of 1 project.

The car for the Fire Department will be taken care of

Outstanding Issues

- **Super Park has become hazardous.-**

Concerns- Wooden structure and ground cover.

- **Hennessey Barn**

Burn down the Hennessey Barn with a controlled fire?

Mickey Gauthier will be in touch with the DEP etc. to see if they can burn it down.

Dave Libbey stated that interest in the barn has been expressed.

- **Saturday Meetings**

Town Administrator may attend some meetings.

Maybe for Classified.

Town Administrator open for suggestions as to the format of the budget book.

- **Board of Selectmen workshop on 2/13/ 07.**

Bill Hanley, Bob Foley, Sue Robbins, Dave Ross, Gary Murray to attend.

Adjournment:

Motion: Bob Foley moved that the public meeting and the public hearing of the Finance Committee adjourn.

Seconded: Gary Murray. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public meeting and the public hearing of the Finance Committee adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Fiacco