

**TOWN OF WENHAM**

**Finance & Advisory Committee  
Meeting of, March 28, 2016  
Bessie Buker, School Street**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT HEARING**

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Committee members, a meeting of the Finance & Advisory Committee (FinCom) was held on Monday March 28, 2016 at 7 PM in the Multi Media Room.

**1) Call to Order / Introductions**

With a quorum present, Chairman Lucy, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Committee Members present: Michael Lucy, Chair; Ned Flynn; Rick Quinn; Alex Begin, Michael Therrien  
Also present: Angel Wills, Finance Director; Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator;  
Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Kopelman & Paige Town Counsel; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Selectmen in Attendance: Catherine Harrison, Chair; Jack Wilhelm; John Clemenzi

Officials present: Fire Chief, Bob Blanchard; Town Clerk, Dianne Bucco; CPC Chair/ Historic Commissioner, Harriet Davis; Planning Board Chair, David Geikie

Public Information

Recorded with permission HWCAM

Agenda

2016 ATM Warrant

Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget

**2.) Open Warrant Hearing** for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting (ATM)

Mr. Lucy Opened the Warrant Hearing.

**3.) Warrant Presentations**

A. Budget Overview

- The FY17 Budget: \$17,281,165 – Increase over last year of \$1,068,992
- Excess levy capacity - \$85,577
- Projected tax rate: \$18.12 per \$1,00 valuation – Increase of \$1.14 (6.72 %)
- Local receipts increased \$82,885 (8.57 %)
- Projected local state aid - net increase \$9,309
- Free cash used \$750,00 to balance budget: Balance of un-appropriated Free Cash is \$311,225
- Town Expenses Summary: \$ 3,444,475 – increase of \$68,914 (2.04%)
  - Increase in employee insurance and retirement assessment

APPROVED 4.26.16

- Salaries: \$3,955,778; increase of \$66,595 (1.7%)
- Capital: \$159,000; Increase of \$70,405 (79.47%)

Expense budget drivers:

- Education Assessment: HWRSD & Essex Tech
- \$8,622,784; Increase of \$739,680 (9.38%)
- HWRSD: \$699,158 increase; \$336,000 due to the enrollment shift to Wenham increasing by 10 (students) while Hamilton's decreased by 21.
- Education Debt Service: \$340,410; Increase of \$27,505 (8.79 %)
- Municipal Debt Serve \$778,718; Increase of \$95,893

Capital Improvements:

- IT- \$10,000
- Police: \$38,000 marked Police Cruiser
- Fire: \$15,000 Department vehicle leases
- Highway: \$35,000 (new) lease medium duty truck/plow; \$61,000 Street & Sidewalk Maintenance

Observations from Finance & Advisory Committee

- Focused efforts were made during the budget building process to control operating costs, reduce expenses, and utilize alternative or additional revenue sources.
  - \$270,105 In town expenses was eliminated from the initial FY2017 operating budget to what is being presented at town meeting.
- Of the \$1,068,992 budget increase, \$301,807 or 28.23% is related to municipal expenses while the remaining 71.77% is related to the regional and vocational schools.
- From FY15 to FY16 the education budget has risen from 49% to 52% of Wenham's total operating budget while Town expenditures related to public safety, public works, water, and general government have proportionately decreased.

Net Amount to be Raised	\$14,307,322
Prior Fiscal year levy limit before debt exclusion	\$13,192,579
Prop 2 ½% increase	\$329,814
Forecast new growth	\$63,095
Levy limit before adding current year debt exclusion	\$13,585,488
Prop 2 ½ dead exclusion	\$807,410
School debt, town hall/ police station, culvert drainage	
Levy Limit: Maximum allowable levy	\$14,392,898
Excess Levy Capacity: Levy limit minus the amount to be raised	\$85,577
Total Property Valuation	\$789,556,796

Tax rate that amount to be raised divided by property valuation at \$1000 is \$18.12

B. Review FY 2017 Budget

Mr. Lucy read the budget line items. Those wanting to discuss or question a budget were asked to say; "hold" and these would be addressed at the completion of the budget reading.

Questions:

- What is the rationale for moving the Pleasant Pond Park into police department?

The Police Department is responsible for scheduling, hiring of Pleasant Pond.

- Who owns the Town Clock?

The Town owns the face, hands, and clock works. A historic preservation restriction will be placed on the town clock.

- What are the costs of the Regional Emergency Call Center?

This expense is paid by deduction off the Town's Cherry Sheet; Wenham's Assessment for FY 16 is \$82,194. The request was made to identify this budget at Town Meeting.

- With the installation of new street lighting was the budget adjusted for the projected cost savings?

The budget was conservatively adjusted in anticipation of savings (\$15,000-\$20,000)

Mr. Lucy read through the Warrant Articles, giving a brief summary on each article.

Article 2 -7 Consent Calendar

Article 2: Use of Free Cash to Balance the Budget and Level the Tax Rate

Article 3: Cemetery and Other Trust Funds

Article 4: Cemetery Maintenance Fund Transfer

Article 5: OPEB Fund Appropriation

Article 6: Road Work Chapter 90 Funding (funding for Capital projects only)

Article 7: Hamilton / Wenham Grounds Maintenance Revolving Fund

Article 8: Payment of Fy 2015 Legal Bill

Article 9: Water Department Capital Expenses

Article 10: Community Preservation Act Appropriations

*Ms. Davis fielded questions regarding Article 10. David Geikie, Larch Row, asked several questions to understand the CPA and the applications being presented to Town Meeting for approval. Town Counsel participated in this discussion providing additional information.*

Article 11: Acceptance of MGL Chapter 40, Section 57: Collection of Delinquent Local Taxes, Fees, Assessment, and Betterments Due to the Town

Article 12: Bylaw Amendment Zoning Board of Appeal

Article 13: Bylaw Amendment Community Preservation

Article 14: Acceptance of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23D -Member Attendance at Adjudicatory Hearings.

*Attorney Goldberg further explained this article.*

Article 15: Bylaw Adoption: Residency Requirement for Members of Appointed Multiple Member Bodies.

*Attorney Goldberg further explained this article, saying this does not apply to elected positions.*

Article 16: Amend Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program

Article 17: Acceptance of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5N: Tax Relief to Veteran's

Article 18: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Site Plan Review

Article 19: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Site Plan Review for Certain Institutional and Exempt Uses  
*Attorney Goldberg further explained this article.*

Article 20: Bylaw Adoption: Demolition Delay for Historic Buildings

*Ms. Davis spoke to this bylaw clarifying this bylaw only applies to the exterior of the homes.*

*Ms. Davis answered questions. Attorney Goldberg further explained this article.*

Article 21: Special Legislation: Grassy Roots Liquor License

*Jim Purdy, Larch Row, observed there is a lot of traffic and pedestrian traffic in this area on Main Street and requested this be carefully considered.*

Article 22: Election of Town Officers: Thursday April 7, 2016. Elections are held at Town Hall.

**4.) Other matters**, as may not have been reasonably anticipated by the Chair (discussion only).

## **5.) Adjournment**

The Finance Committee unanimously adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley

4.21.16