

Spencer Finance Committee
March 25, 2014
Minutes

Call meeting to order: 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, clerk, Nancy Tame, John Desmarais, Robbin Joyce, Bill Wall, Chris Bowen & Chris Kandel; Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator

Guests: John Lafleche, Superintendent Bay Path Regional Vocation High School, Dean Iacobucci, Business Manager & Robert Zukowski, School Committee Member (Spencer)

Minutes:

Approval of March 18, 2014 Minutes:

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Bill Wall

Approved: Unanimous

Correspondence:

Mass Municipal Newsletter

Staff Presentation

Bay Path Regional Vocation High School

Mr. Lafleche opened with presenting the FY2015 Budget, which included the Debt Service Assessment, local aid & Chapter 70 aid. Spencer's minimum contribution member assessment total is \$8,821,267.00; Mr. Iacobucci continued with a detailed explanation of the "school funding formula." Discussed the six factors of the foundation budget and local contribution to determine the (Spencer's) Chapter 70 Aid; also explained the calculating of Spencer's minimum contribution.

Mr. Lafleche ended Bay Path's presentation with the statement, that if at the of the school year more money was needed, he promised that they would not return to ask for more money; they would make the necessary cuts in the budget to the meet the need(s)at hand.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Liaison Report:

SEBRSC:

Julie Parenteau was attending the school committee meeting at Wire Village School and will report next meeting, April 1, 2014.

Mary Braney stated that items to be discussed by the school committee at the meeting were the retiree health insurance and the review to close Lake Street.

Review FY2015 Budget Update: Adam Gaudette provided the town FY2015 budget update; discussed the amount to be raised by Real & Personal Property taxes; estimated receipts & other revenue from the State; local estimated receipts and available fund transfers to fund Capital project, that were previously concluded by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee, having finalized review & scoring of the departmental requests; also presented were the Articles of the "draft" Warrant.

Additional lengthy discussion with regard to a pending 2 ½ override to fund the town, which will start with a \$700,000 deficit; school committee is requesting that the override include the school district funding needs as well; concerns by town manager & some members that if override does not pass, the town will suffer the consequences; would rather have one override for the town and another override for the school district, if need be.

Questions, comments, concerns & considerable discussion by committee members

Any Further Business: Letter to BoS to consider the institution of the optional meal tax was met with little enthusiasm. Finance committee agreed to have Mary Braney draft a Citizen Sponsored Article to be put on the Warrant for the May 1, 2014 town meeting; consideration/vote to adopt the .75% optional meal tax.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Motion: Paul McLaughlin

Second: Chris Bowen

Approved: Unanimous

*April 1, 2014, Finance Committee Public Hearing to be held
in McCourt Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy E. Herholz