

**Finance Committee Meeting
March 5, 2013
Butterick Building Room 205**

Members in attendance: John Kilcoyne, Robert Brown, Lisa Call, Patrick Fox, Mary Cliett, Barbara Bartlett, Joseph Sova, and Town Administrator, Terri Ackerman.

Chairman John Kilcoyne called meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Senior Center Building Committee Meeting – Maureen introduced Diversified Project Management who presented the committee with a “High-Low Project Budget” a Sterling Senior Center. Following a study that was completed, they stated that Sterling would need a building of approximately 6,650 square feet. Their high-low budget showed a breakdown of the project cost for a building of approx. 6,450 sq ft totaling \$2,745,345, as well as for a building of approx. 6,850 sq ft totaling \$3,143,196.

The Finance Committee asked questions such as “What if the footprint was smaller”, “How many people answered the study” (this number was not known at the time), and “What were the usage numbers for the current senior center over the past year”, to help to prepare for Town Meeting explanations. Committee also asked what the operating costs for a center of comparable size would be, and the reply was approx. \$20 per square foot, annually.

Building Committee stated that they would be back in two weeks to ask the committee for recommendations regarding the verbiage in the article. (John stated it would be “borrowing”.)

WRSD School Committee Reps and Administrators Meeting – The WRSD School Committee had prepared a PowerPoint presentation of their FY14 Initial Budget Proposal (which could be dependant on governor’s budget). Expenditures increased approx 3.49% in total, but included decreases in Employee Benefits (due to a new contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield) and in Debt Service. Revenues showed a projected 37.2% coming from Chapter 70 and Other State Aid, and that Sterling’s FY14 Assessment (including Minimum Local Contribution, Operational, Transportation, and Debt Service) is projected to be \$9,959,666.17, which would be 0.5 % less than last year.

Discuss Revenue and Expense Totals – Finance Committee and Town Administrator reviewed the Budget Summary, which looks better now due to favorable school numbers.

Discussion of Town Meeting Warrant Articles – While the details/wording of many of the Town Meeting Warrant Articles was not yet available, some were known and explained by Terri Ackerman.

Article 16 – Fund Principal and Interest for 2004 Fire Truck

Article 17 – Fund Lease – Purchase Payment for Ambulance

Article 18 – Fund Lease – Purchase Payment for 2010 Pumper Tank

VOTE: Motion that the Finance Committee support Articles 16, 17, and 18 made by Joe Sova, second by Lisa Call – vote was unanimous.

Article 23 – Federal Fire Act Grant 5% Match

VOTE: Motion that the Finance Committee support Article 23 made by Joe Sova, second by Mary Cliett – vote was unanimous.

Article 32 – Fund Wachusett Regional Recycling Center (Earthday) \$2,985

VOTE: Motion that the Finance Committee support Article 32 made by Joe Sova, second by Lisa Call – vote was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn by Pat Fox, seconded by Joe Sova.

Meeting adjourned 9:09 PM