

**Town of Sterling
Joint FinCom/Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
November 5, 2018
Butterick Building, Room 205**

Finance Committee Chairman Joe Sova called the meeting to order at 6:06.PM.

In Attendance for the Finance Committee:

Joe Sova, Mary Cliett, Everett Heller, Todd Chapman, Steve Staudaher and Gerry Kokernak

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Richard Lane called their meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

In Attendance for the Board of Selectmen:

Richard Lane, John Kilcoyne and Maureen Cranson

Also in Attendance: Town Administrator Ross Perry

Approve Finance Committee Prior Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve minutes of the June 18, 2018 meeting was made by Steve Staudaher and seconded by Gerry Kokernak. Sova, Staudaher, Cliett and Kokernak were in favor and the motion carried. Everett Heller did not vote as he was not present at that meeting.

Prepare FinCom and BOS Comments/Position for November 8th Meeting re:

Regional Town and WRSD FY20 Budget Review:

FinCom Chairman Sova spoke about a meeting that was held in October with Boards of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Committees representing the Wachusett area towns. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and come to a consensus regarding requests the 5 representative towns in the Wachusett Regional School District would like to address prior to WRSD formulating municipal budgets for FY20

A list of five requests was developed:

- That WRSD present a FY20 budget that contains no more than a 3.5% overall increase in operational spending.
- That WRSD produce a line item budget for both FY19 and FY20.
- That WRSD identify their current OPEB liability and present a long-term plan to address this liability.
- That WRSD prepare and present a 5-year capital plan as well as a 10-year capital plan specific to major construction projects.
- That WRSD prepare a 5-year projection listing educational goals for projects that would fall within the operational budget.

Chairman Sova commented that these five items are relevant; it is what our Finance Committee works on each year.

TA Perry noted that the school district is proposing full-day, tuition-free kindergarten for FY20, with an estimated cost of \$1,300,000.00.

He also mentioned that a replacement turf field is expected to be in the budget again this year.

BOS Chairman Lane commented that these items show why a 5-year plan is needed, so the towns in the school district know what to expect.

BOS Member Cranson said that Department Heads for the town are asked to level-fund services; the school district should strive for the same.

She also said that Sterling does have the space for kindergarten. At the present time, parents who choose to have their children enrolled in kindergarten are paying \$3,400.00 per year.

Mr. Perry will check to see if School Committee members are invited to the November 8 meeting and if so, he will notify them and ask them to attend, if possible.

FinCom Chair Sova is unable to attend the meeting, and Gerry Kokernak offered to attend in Joe's absence.

For the Board of Selectmen, John Kilcoyne made a motion to accept the five points listed and Maureen Cranson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

For the Finance Committee, Everett Heller made a motion to accept the five points listed and was seconded by Steve Staudaher. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Other Committee Business:

Ross Perry presented an FY20 Budget Schedule for review.

FinCom member Heller suggested a WRSD representative be invited to the Saturday meeting held annually, in which FinCom meets with Department Heads.

Mary Cliett suggested a review of the Liaison List at the next meeting. This will be an Agenda item.

Set Next Meeting Date:

Chairman Sova scheduled the next meeting for November 13, 2018, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in Room 201 of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting was made by Mary Cliett and seconded by Todd Chapman. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

The Board of Selectmen continued with their meeting.