

Dennis Finance Committee
Thursday, March 29, 2007
Dennis Town Hall
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Attendees: Finance Committee; Jim Plath, Peter McDowell, Bill Crowell, Ted Dumas, Bob Prall, Michael Brennan and Rachel Baroni.

Attendees: Board of Selectmen; Jane Otis, Charlie Crowell, Sheryl McMahon, Paul McCormick, and Heidi Schadt. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi and Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife.

D-Y School Committee and School Department: Skip Finnell, Kevin Depin, Mary Ellen Angelone, Gerry Bastian, Sharon Harley and Dr. Lisa McMahon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

D-Y School Budget

Dennis Representative to the D-Y School Committee, Mary Ellen Angelone, addressed the Selectmen. The Committee doesn't feel there is anything frivolous in this budget. The Committee would also like to move the educational process forward. The School Committee is requesting the Finance Committee to support the School budget.

Jim Plath asked if there was change in the school funding formula. He asked how much E&D was applied to this budget.

Skip Finnell stated that \$800,000.00 was added.

Jim Plath asked how much E&D is left.

Skip Finnell stated that there is \$600,000.00 left.

Jim Plath asked what amount in budget cuts were made. What was cut out of the original budget? What amount is being proposed for new personnel?

Skip Finnell stated that to come to the number we are working with today is \$468,000.00.

Jim Plath asked Robert Canevazzi if he met with the School Committee and if he gave them a number that the Town of Dennis could work with.

Robert Canevazzi stated that he identified what we had originally allocated for the FY-08 budget.

Skip Finnell stated that we were fairly close with the original numbers; it was when the State made their changes that caused this problem. It wasn't anything that the School Committee did that caused this.

Finance Committee Approved on 07-10-2007

Gerry Bastian Vice Chair D-Y Regional School Committee, said we need to start to look at this budget in a different manner. The conditions in the classrooms are different than they were 10 years ago. The problems coming into the classroom are totally different. We need someone in charge of discipline. We need the principals in the classrooms if we are going to improve achievement. When we say that 30-40% are not reaching proficiency this means that they are not on grade level. We need to improve instruction in the classrooms. There are added positions because we need to improve public educations. If we don't our quality of life in the two Towns will become something that we are not used to.

Jim Plath asked what has been the decrease in population.

Mary Ellen Angelone stated that over five years there was a total loss of roughly 127 students.

Peter McDowell asked how many principals worked at the schools.

Kevin Depin stated that two years ago we moved from a full time Assistant Principal to a half- time Assistant Principal due to budget constraints. The half-time Assistant Principal works 102 days per year.

Peter McDowell asked what the Dean of Students would do.

Gerry Bastian stated that this person would be solely in charge of discipline. They would be qualified to do what is required of an Assistant Principal. However, the pay would not be the same as that of an Assistant Principal. There are times very often where the entire day can be spent dealing with the problems of one student. You can't teach if you have all these discipline issues. We have students that were crack babies and others that suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome. Violent behavior needs to be removed from the classroom. We need to improve instruction. We need to help our teachers. This is a two fold problem.

Kevin Depin stated that it is not in his nature to ask for help. It's hard for me to be on TV asking for help. You asked what I do and the answer is that I do everything. In the last three years we have seen a big difference in discipline. While a child is being disciplined they are out of the classroom not learning. There are a lot of things that need to be done. The discipline issues can be like a deli line. We have 40% of the students participating in free or reduced lunch. The request for staffing is not a luxury. Every student needs to be proficient in reading and writing by the 3rd grade. It is our legal obligation to provide the students with the best that we can.

Sharon Hartley and Dr. McMahon addressed the Selectmen.

Dr. McMahon stated that the 4th and 5th grades are run under an elementary model and the 6th, 7th and 8th grade is run under a middle school model that alone creates difficulties in management. The co-principal approach has worked very well under these conditions. This dynamic has made it easier for staff to meetings. However, we still need to deal with behavior protocol. Right now it comes down to discipline or education. One person will help us to deal with the behavior issues.

Sharon Hartley stated that there are 95 staff members that are working with the children.

Dr. McMahon stated that this new person will deal with behavior. Behavior needs do not always mean discipline.

Mary Ellen Angelone said we need to be very careful with how we put this out there. There is an increase in poverty and autism on the Cape. There are many programs within the District and these programs in the long run are saving the District money. We want to keep these children with their families.

Jim Plath asked Skip Finnell to point out where the budget cuts were made.

Skip Finnell stated there were a number of items screened by the Principal and the Superintendent. We need to discuss the need for full-day Kindergarten. This is a concept of reverse discrimination. We recently applied for \$75,000.00 grant to off-set the cost. Security is also a very big issue. We have done an incredible amount of training with the school resource officer. This whole discussion and over-ride is not about one position.

Michael Brennan stated that he understands that there is poverty in the community. Many of us are sympathetic to the situation. We need to ask the Committee to go back and see if they can make additional cuts.

Mary Ellen Angelone stated that the Committee wants the opportunity to bring it to the voters. If .08 cents per household will create a better school district, then she is willing to pay it.

Peter McDowell asked Skip Finnell to explain the 4.62% growth in spending.

Skip Finnell said this is growth position by position. The teachers agreed to a 1-year contract with a 2% increase. This includes other Town jobs and step increases. He added that he would research the issue.

Skip Finnell stated that this is .08 cents on \$1,000.00.

Bill Crowell said we are looking at all the overrides.

Gerry Bastian stated that the teachers have only received 2.5% increase for the year. This budget also includes longevity. This is not something unique to the schools. This is the way it's done.

Michael Brennan suggested that for the first year the District could try only two deans. Safety and security should be part of the base budget. There is opportunity to make adjustments to this budget.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved not to recommend the budget as printed in the Warrant. Michael Brennan seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

DPW Capital Purchases

Sheryl McMahon stated that the Finance Committee needs to determine whether or not they support the purchase and secondly how we will fund the purchase.

Jane Otis asked if we are going to request David Johansen to explain again why he is making these request.

Peter McDowell is curious as to why the DPW is for the first time ever requesting a 10 wheeler truck.

David Johansen stated that a 10 wheeler dump truck is more efficient. We can haul more with one truck. We have asked for this truck in the past. The cost of this vehicle will continue to rise. The cost of the 10 wheeler with a sander and plow will cost \$201,000.00. This truck will be able to double our ability to do our work.

Sheryl McMahon stated that this will create a request for a larger override. However, when all is said and done if you borrow the funds and pay it on the Capital you have put \$400,000.00 into the bank.

Peter McDowell stated that next year we will still being 1/5th of what we purchased this year. What we purchase today, should be paid for today.

Jim Plath stated that he is in the middle.

Sheryl McMahon stated that this would be exempt. This will not snow ball. You will earn funds back. We can build up reserves.

Michael Brennan stated that we need to develop a plan for our future capital needs.

Jane Otis stated that the DPW does a great job with whatever we give them. These trucks seem to last a long time. It costs less to purchase the larger truck rather than to hire additional staff to drive the smaller trucks.

Rachel Baroni asked if the Town out sources for drainage work.

David Johansen stated that we do outsource and we also perform the work in-house. The 10 wheeler will be used for many jobs.

Ted Dumas stated that he is leaning towards the debt exclusion.

Jim Plath asked the Board of Selectmen if they want to give the \$430,000.00 in free cash for the capital.

Motion:

Sheryl McMahan moved to expend \$400,000.0 out of free cash for capital. Heidi Schadt seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 4-1-0 (JO). The motion was carried.

Motion:

Sheryl McMahan moved to put \$30,000.00 into the reserve fund for FY 2008. Charlie Crowell seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 5-0-0. The motion was carried.

Cape Cod Technical High School Budget

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to recommend the budget for Cape Cod Tech. School in the amount of \$1,080,329.00. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Golf Department Budget

Peter McDowell stated that he would like to strike the words Golf Pro from uniforms seasonal from line item #53480.

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to reconsider budget 640, in line item 53480 and to strike the words Golf Pro and reduce this item by \$1,000.00 for a total budget in the amount \$1,707,335.00. Michael Brennan seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Robert Canevazzi stated that this position should have a clothing allowance. This will be addressed during collective bargaining.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to increase item 100129 by \$300.00, decrease item 100141 by \$30,000.00 and increase 100131 by \$30,000.00. Michael Brennan seconded. Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Motion:

Peter McDowell said that the final appropriation for the budget is in the amount of \$27,180, 946.41. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Review of Warrant Articles

Article 3

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to recommend Article 3 as printed in the Warrant. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 7

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article 7 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 8

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Article 8 as printed in the Warrant. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 12

Motion:

Ted Dumas moved to recommend Article 12 as printed. Michael Brennan seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 13

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Article 13 as printed in the Warrant. Bill Crowell seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 14

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article 14 as printed in the Warrant. Bob Prall seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 15

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to recommend Article 15 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 17

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Article 17 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 18

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Article 18 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 19

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to recommend Article 19 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Motion:

Bill Crowell moved to amend his motion to include the word *initial*. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 20

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend \$13,860.00 for the purpose of the Article. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 24

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to recommend Article 24 as printed in the Warrant. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 28

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Articles 28, 29 and 30. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 31

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend the transfer of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of Article 31. Michael Brennan seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 32

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend \$1,600,000.00 for purpose as stated in the Warrant. Michael Bob Prall seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 33

Motion:

Michael Brennan moved to recommend the Article. Rachel Baroni seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 34

Motion:

Ted Dumas moved to recommend Article 34. Peter McDowell seconded. The Board of Selectmen voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

Article 35

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to pass on this Article.

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Article 36

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to recommend Article 36 and for the revenues to be used for the maintenance for Bass River Park facility. Ted Dumas seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.

9:50 P.M.

Motion:

Peter McDowell moved to adjourn. Bob Prall seconded. The Finance Committee voted 7-0-0. The motion was carried.