

MINUTES

FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

May 11, 2006

Present: Chair Jason Perreault
David DeVries
Michael Hodge
Roger Leland

Absent: Vice-Chair James Halpin

Also Present: James Casella, former member and Chair, Financial Planning Committee

Meeting convened at 7:03 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Recognition of James V. Casella

Mr. Perreault noted that Mr. Casella had opted not to seek reappointment after having served 13 years on the Committee. He thanked Mr. Casella for his long term of service to the Town. The Committee presented Mr. Casella with a commemorative plaque.

Mr. Leland recalled the uncertainty that existed when he and Mr. Casella were appointed to the Committee when it was reestablished in 1993. He recounted several of Mr. Casella's accomplishments and offered a motion acknowledging Mr. Casella's steadfast service and leadership, which received the unanimous support of the Committee.

Mr. Casella thanked the Committee. He urged members to persist in the matter of ARHS BAN interest reimbursement, to continue to give full, fair and open-minded hearing to all matters that come before them, and to formulate recommendations consistent with the Town's best interests.

Approval of Minutes of Mon Apr 24 2006 Meeting

Mr. DeVries noted a correction to the reported adjournment: the Committee did not adjourn on Mon Apr 24, but instead remained convened until 11:30 p.m. on Tue Apr 25, adjourning at the conclusion of Town Meeting.

Approval of minutes of the Mon Apr 24 2006 meeting, as amended, was moved (DeVries) and seconded (Hodge) and carried 3-0 with Mr. Leland abstaining.

Review of FY06 Financial Planning Committee Activities

Mr. Perreault made reference to the Committee's report in the Town Warrant booklet and briefly touched upon some of the issues addressed over the past year.

Preliminary Goals/Issues for FY07

Mr. Perreault distributed a list of potential goals/issues to be addressed by the Committee in the coming year. Prominent among these are:

- Develop criteria to discern capital project proposals that are deferred / recurring maintenance more properly accounted for as operational expenses.
- Continue to consider improvements to the Town Debt Policy affordability model.
- Resolve how reimbursement of ARHS BAN interest should be handled.
- Work with Community Preservation Committee to incorporate Community Preservation Act capital projects into the Six-Year Capital Plan and FPC review cycle.
- Establish working relationship with incoming Superintendent Joseph.
- Clarify allowed use of email among members vis-a-vis Open Meeting Law.

To these, Committee members suggested adding the following:

- Arrange for Committee to observe municipal and school facilities and equipment that will be subjects of capital project proposals in the coming year. Tours could be made as early as Sep-Oct even though proposals may not be fully formed. A first-hand look at the condition of capital facilities and equipment is a valuable supplement to the presentations made to the Committee by the departments. (Leland)
- The Committee should make a brief presentation at Town Meeting, summarizing activities of the Committee, financial impact of current year's capital proposals, and outlook for expenditures and debt over the term of the Six-Year Capital Plan. (Hodge)
- Monitor progress of Senior Center project in wake of failed debt exclusion ballot vote. (Mr. Hodge and Mr. Leland offered opinions on project size, cost, and demand/need.)
- Develop liaisons as appropriate to expedite working relationships with other bodies. Mr. Hodge offered to serve in this capacity as the need arises. (Hodge)

Mr. Perreault indicated it was likely he would meet during the summer with Superintendent Joseph and with Community Preservation Committee Chair John Campbell, and would keep the Committee apprised of any developments.

Any other business to come before the Committee

No further meetings of the Committee are planned for FY06.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.