



Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14, 2008

Place: High School Computer Lab

Present:

Ed Maharay	P	Howard Fortner	P	Peter DeMers	P
Christine Horwath		Rick Young	P	Mark Andrews	P

Call to Order: 7:00 PM – Joint meeting with School Committee

1. Finance Committee Questions (see attached)

Financial Issues/Plans

There was a discussion of the new union contract agreements. There will be an increase in salary but also savings in health care.

The School Business Manager mentioned that what occurred in Northbridge could not happen in Uxbridge because we are under the same accounting system. He also mentioned we should not be hit that much from the State because State funding is near the minimum specified by law.

We should expect at least a \$250K increase due to fuels cost. There are 1750 eligible for busing and 93 from OLV. The major expense is the leasing of 19 buses.

The school department is expecting school choice to decrease over the next 3 years. One issue with Kindergarten – no space for some students so they need to school choice out.

High School Project

High School still on probation. The Superintendent of Schools tried to get probation upgraded but NESCA would not agree.

Discussion of the feasibility study occurred. The School Business Manager put the cost of the new high school:

500 Students - \$211 per taxpayer

650 Students - \$240 per taxpayer

Future SC/Fincom meetings

The Finance Committee expressed the desire to hold a second meeting with the School Committee in three months, not in February as previously discussed. The following topics were suggested: Year-end Report, Indirect Costs, School Committee policies re: Finances and 2010 Budget preparations.

ADJOURNMENT

MSDV

Motion	Motion to adjourn				
1st	MWA	2nd	HF	Vote	5-0

Finance Committee Action Items

Number	Responsible	Description	Status
1	EM	Obtain memo explaining Teacher raise and health care savings.	
2	EM	Set up second meeting with the School Committee: suggested topics: Year-end Report, Indirect Costs , School Committee policies re: Finances	



Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Action Items

Date: October 14, 2008

Finance Committee Action Items

Number	Responsible	Description	Status
101408-1	EM	Obtain memo explaining Teacher raise and health care savings.	IP
101408-2	EM	Set up second meeting with the School Committee: suggested topics: Year-end Report, Indirect Costs , School Committee policies re: Finances	IP
92908-1	MD	Checklist on what is needed for Road Acceptance to help FinCom when reviewing articles.	Done
92908-2	EM	Ed will update FATM request.	Done

These minutes are a summary of the proceedings of the Uxbridge Finance Committee. All Meeting are taped and copies are available from the Town Clerks office or via the Cable Access Coordinator.

**JOINT MEETING
SCHOOL & FINANCE COMMITTEES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
7:00 – 9:30
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

OBJECTIVE:

To improve communications between the two committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the major financial issues/plans for the schools?
 - a. Teachers Contract
 - i. Will the new teacher's contract produce appreciable savings for the town?
 - ii. Will the SC consider a change in the employee health insurance contribution or co-pays?
 - iii. Will the SC consider a pay for performance contract?
 - iv. Will the SC recommend a reduction in the workforce in order to contain salary and health care costs?
 - b. Transportation Contract
 - i. What is the status of the current bus contract?
 - ii. What is the projection for the next contract?
 - c. High School Principal's Position
 - i. Is there a plan for reinstating the principal's position?
 - d. School Choice Out
 - i. Can you give us an update on School Choice Out numbers?
 - ii. What is the projection for the future?
 - e. Financial Model
 - i. Does the School Committee have a clear understanding of it?
 - ii. Has the School Committee seen the latest three (3) year projection?
 - f. Financial Policies
 - i. What financial polices does the School Committee have and how do they effect the town's finances?
 - ii. What is being done to prevent the future problems, like those experienced last spring, with the revolving accounts?
2. Please give us an update on the high school project
 - a. Accreditation
 - i. What is the current accreditation status of the HS?
 - ii. If the current status is probation, what steps are being taken by the SC to improve the status?
 - iii. If the current status is probation, does the SC anticipate a loss of accreditation?
 - iv. What, if any, impact does the NEASC's accreditation have on MSBA and the high school project?
 - b. Feasibility Study

- i. What is the purpose of the study and why is the State making is us do this?
 - ii. Why did the SC request for a feasibility study go from 35K to 500K?
 - iii. What percentage of the 500K is eligible for reimbursement?
 - iv. Does state reimbursement still occur if the Uxbridge project is not selected or if Uxbridge voters decline the project?
 - v. Who will be spending the money and what board will be overseeing and approving expenditures?
 - c. New High School
 - i. If the feasibility study is approved, will the HS project be approved?
 - ii. Is the state going to tell us how to spend the money?
 - iii. What is the plan for the existing HS if a new HS is built?
 - iv. Funding for school building comes from 20% of the state's sales tax. How are you doing?
 - v. Will the building of a power plant have an impact on the HS?
 - vi. Will the SC consider additions to the existing HS?
- 3. Should the FC and SC hold regular quarterly meetings?
- 4. Request for information – Discussion
 - a. Committee
 - b. Individual

Town Bylaws

§ 35-6. Accessibility to municipal records and accounts.

In performing its duties, the Finance Committee shall have free access to all books of records and accounts, bills and vouchers on which money has been or may be paid from the Town treasury. All officers, boards, committees and departments of the Town shall, upon request, furnish the Finance Committee with facts, figures and any other information pertaining to the efficient fulfillment of its duties