



TOWN OF WAYLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 2010

ARTICLE 6: RESOLUTION SEEKING INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF TOWN AND SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS

Proposed by: Petitioners

To determine whether the Town will vote to endorse the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Wayland's residents are committed to maintaining a financially secure Town with strong municipal and school services; and,
WHEREAS Wayland's budget continues to face challenges from the economy, reductions in state aid and growing healthcare and pension costs; and,
WHEREAS the Finance Committee has requested workflow efficiencies as part of its Long Range Plan; and,
WHEREAS the Finance Committee and School Committee have a comparison of expenses and practices with peer communities and districts; and,
WHEREAS residents of the Town desire an independent review of the School budget process and improved financial reporting as outlined in the Request for Proposals, Professional Services Contract, Operational Review of School Budget Process and Non-Educational Operational and Administrative Functions (dated March 18, 2010)
WHEREAS the Finance Committee has included funds in the FY11 operating budget for such purposes.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Town Meeting supports an independent review that will include:

1. a comparison of current budgeting and expenditure reporting formats used by the Wayland Public Schools with formats used by peer towns with recommendations for improvements in Wayland's budgeting and expenditure reporting formats, including level of account detail, consistent with best management practices;
2. a restatement of FY2011 budget at a detailed and subsidiary account level in the recommended best management practice format with testing to validate budget classifications subsequent to modification of budget format;
3. a specific recommendation on expenditure reporting that captures variances in actual expenditures from budget at a detailed and subsidiary account level to improve decision-making and to provide better accountability to citizens; and
4. a review of non-educational operational and administrative functions identifying efficiencies within the School department and like areas within Town operations, to include recommendations for areas for potential alternative service delivery methods and cost-savings strategies such as consolidation with Town departments, collaboration with other school districts, or outsourcing.

The independent review shall be performed by an independent consultant and conducted under the direction of an Operational Review Committee established by the Board of Selectmen and comprised of one member from each of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committee and two members appointed by the Finance Committee. The Operational Review Committee will report to the 2011 Annual Town Meeting with findings and recommendations, said committee to be dissolved with the adjournment sine die of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting.