



[Home](#) > [Wayland Town Crier](#) > [Local News](#) >  [RSS Feed](#)

Budget forum

By **Katie Liesener**/ Staff Writer
Thursday, February 23, 2006

The Finance Committee decided last week to recommend a \$2.1 million override as a single ballot question to cover a fiscal year 2007 deficit driven by a \$1.775 million increase in energy, pension and medical insurance costs. An additional \$325,000 of the proposed override is slated to replenish the town's free cash account.

In September, the town's FY07 shortfall was originally projected at \$3.3 million, an estimate that was reduced by \$700,000 in cost-saving measures identified by the Ad Hoc Committee, adjustments to revenue estimates and cuts in school and municipal budgets.

The resultant \$50.8 million operating budget represents "shared sacrifice rather than level services," said Chris Riley, FinCom chairman.

Members of the Conservation Commission did not agree the sacrifice was fairly shared.

"Conservation supplied a recommended budget for an 8 percent reduction with the understanding that all departments would be cut by that amount," said Chairwoman Megan Lucier. "The latest version has now slashed our budget by 10 percent which means that, for two years in a row, we've been reduced more than other departments, even after we increased our fees and generated more income for the town."

As part of its budget preparations, the FinCom had requested all town departments provide a list of cuts that would reduce their budgets by 8 percent. The committee rejected all but \$100,000 worth of the \$600,000 in potential cuts, according to Michael DiPietro, finance director.

Among the potential cuts that have since been reinstated were proposals to eliminate school crossing guards, cut several teaching positions in the schools, close the library on weekends, and reduce money available for the senior tax work-off program.

The FinCom budget maintains the School Committee's "level services" budget, which reduces the number of elementary school specialists in art, music, gym and the library from 3 to 2 full-time positions.

In addition to the operating budget, the FinCom also approved a capital budget that would require voters to approve debt exemptions for Town Building repairs, a new fire truck, library repairs, and repairs to the Happy Hollow School roof.

For the first time, the FinCom also considered how the override ought to be presented to voters, following Selectman Alan Reiss' presentation earlier that week.

The FinCom voted against the menu approach, which would allow voters to consider each departmental budget individually, and against the pyramid approach, which would allow voters to pick from among multiple override amounts.

The committee reasoned that a successful menu ballot would require voters to develop an unrealistically in-depth knowledge of each department's budget. Constructing a pyramid approach, they said, would result in arbitrarily picking a higher and/or lower override amount that could veil their actual recommendation.

"I'm opposed given this budget, but I'm not opposed to the concept (of the pyramid)," Riley said.

Committee member Charles D'Ambrosio suggested the FinCom design next year's budget with the possibility of a pyramid ballot in mind.

"Maybe it would have changed how we structured the budget," he said.

On Feb. 27, FinCom will present its recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, which will decide whether the proposed override will come before voters at Town Meeting.

Wayland voters approved a \$2.3 million override at Town Meeting last year.

Herald Interactive Tools



[Recent articles](#)



[E-mail article to a friend](#)



[View graphic version](#)



[Get RSS feed](#)








[Search site](#)



[Sign up for home delivery](#)

Recent articles

-  [A welcome return to COA](#)
-  [Controversy over chemicals in lakes](#)
-  [Unclaimed checks raise questions](#)
-  [Police searching for robbers](#)
-  [Awesome adventures in Girl Scouts](#)

Today's most read Town Online articles Updated 3:12 PM ET

1. [Teens arrested on drug charges](#)(360)
2. [Police look into family's past in murder case](#)(171)
3. [City demands warrant in FBI investigation](#)(163)
4. [Sister says brother's death no laughing matter](#)(156)
5. [Police push for leads in slaying of mother and daughter](#)(132)

Search the site

[[contact us](#)] :: [[print advertising](#)] :: [[online advertising](#)] :: [[Browser Upgrade](#)] :: [[Jobs](#)] :: [Click here for home delivery](#) or call **1.800.982.4023**

© Copyright by Community Newspaper Co. and Herald Media.
No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)



Enterprise-level broadband service provided by [Expedient: America's Largest All-Ethernet Network](#)



Wireless broadband service provided by [Towerstream](#)

bh.heraldinteractive.com: 0.164861 : Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 GMT