

Minutes of the Longmeadow Appropriations Committee  
Monday, February 3, 2003, 7:05pm – Fire Department Meeting Room

Members Present: Steven Marantz – Chairperson, Deb Gebo, Russell Moore

The Committee continued their FY04 Departmental Budget Hearings, meeting with the following:

Louis Lines – Treasurer, Collector and Clerk – Ms. Lines distributed to the Committee the Official Statement prepared for the most recent bond issue (Blueberry Hill / Wolf Swamp) along with the associated Moody's report. Ms. Lines explained how Moody's almost downgraded the Town's credit rating citing expenditure levels and lack of reserves in times of fiscal tightening (State Aid). The Committee was not surprised with the report. Ms. Lines urged the Committee to support the position of no override and a postponing, if possible the trash fee. Ms. Lines explained her budgetary cuts – loss of a part time clerk. This recommendation would change if selectmen enforced certain across the board clerical reductions.

Robert Leclair, Jim O'Connell, David French – Assessors – Mr. Leclair explained his –3% budget directive – cut in clerical hours. Mr. Leclair stressed the Board of Selectmen needed to approve such a measure, as it would affect Clerical Union members. Mr. Leclair also stressed the need for uniformity amongst departments with the clerical reduction. Mr. Leclair made the Committee aware of potential overlay deficits of up to \$65K in FY99 and lesser amounts in the more recent years, all depending on cases under appeal. Mr. Leclair was also requesting a \$90K warrant article for ½ of the ten-year measure and list revaluation. The Committee expressed their displeasure with Mr. Leclair regarding the Visionappraisal.com matter.

Doug Barron, Bruce Randall, Ken Taylor, Robert White – Mr. Barron explained the Water & Sewer budgets. Many previous costs budgeted for within the Water & Sewer budgets were being shifted to the Highway and/or Public Service Bldg (General Fund) budgets as a result of a more accurate reflection of expenditures. The matter became slightly confusing because Mr. Barron put the Parks & Recreation usage into the mix whereas previously they had never been mentioned even though usage was taking place. Mr. Barron made note of a \$20,500 special article request for a replacement truck in the Sewer Dept. In closing, Mr. Barron estimated the potential impact of negotiated salary increases at \$60K+/- and that this would result in additional loss of manpower.

The Committee reviewed a draft letter addressing the loss of FY03 State Aid. It was requested that a review of capital appropriations not yet started be incorporated in the potential year-end turnbacks. The letter will be revised as such and made more direct.

Minutes of the January 27, 2003 meeting were approved as presented.

The Committee took the following action on Reserve Fund Request:

#5 ZBA Expense	\$1,600.00	Hold
#6 Liability Ins.	7,400.00	Approved

The Committee voted to adjourn at 9:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk  
Town Accountant