

Minutes of the Longmeadow Appropriations Committee
Monday, November 18, 2002 – Fire Community Meeting Room

Members Present: Steven Marantz – Chairperson, Russell Moore, Judd Peskin,
Michael Salwen

The Committee voted to accept the minutes of October 28, 2002 as presented.

The Committee was informed of an increase of approximately \$292.00 to the bill of prior year article (STM11/19). There were no concerns over the change.

The Committee met with Rebecca Townsend, a resident of the Town of Longmeadow opting to complete her doctoral dissertation in communication with a minor concentration in municipal government. Ms. Townsend felt the residents of Town needed to better understand the Town's budget. She provided the Town of Amherst's budget for example purposes on how information could better be disseminated. She was also aware of two consultants who could help in the budgetary communication process. Ms. Townsend expressed her understanding of the needs and wants of the residents with the fiscal constraints in which the Town operates. She understood that any step taken to improve the budgetary information was a step in the right direction and that it may take a few years to actually make any substantial improvements. Ms. Townsend raised her concern over the details of the School budget as compared the details provided by the Town of Amherst. Paul Pasterczyk pointed out that, with the exception of the School budget, the Town actually provided greater detail (more line items) but one year less history. The additional year of history could easily be presented. Ms Townsend agreed to take her concern to the School Committee. The Appropriations Committee felt that Amherst provided too much information but the Longmeadow's budgetary communication process could improve and they were committed to doing so.

The Committee discussed the concerns over the budget instructions and timetable. The requested information would remain the same however the Department Heads would be given until December 23rd to submit the FY04 Budgets.

The Committee had a brief discussion about a Charter revision. The Committee voted in favor of the creation of a Charter Commission.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul J.Pasterczyk

