

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Thursday, January 20, 2005 7:30pm Longmeadow Fire Dept Meeting Room

Members Present:	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Judd Peskin, Chairperson	x	
Paul Santaniello, Vice Chairperson	x (Arrived at 8:15 pm)	
Mark Barowsky	x	
Carla Gunn	x	
Jerry Nolet	x	
Steven Marantz	x	
Suresh Samant	x	

The Finance Committee (FC) voted to accept the January 6, 2005 minutes as amended

The FC met with Larry Eagan (President) and Gerard Kiernan, Storrs Library Directors and Carl Sturgis, Executive Director. Mr. Eagan distributed a few documents, which would help the FC understand the financial relationship between the two groups. The “Operating Agreement” was created in conjunction with the Library Renovation project (early 1990’s) and outlined the responsibilities of both parties. Mr. Eagan reviewed the most recent audit of the Trust Fund held by the directors and highlighted the many uses which supplemented the library operations. The [directors](#) had recently adopted an internal policy, which set a spending limit of 4.5% of the endowment value on such supplemental support. Mr. Eagan and Mr. Sturgis explained the State Aid to Libraries formulas and highlighted the past usage of the funds. Fund balances currently held in these accounts were set aside for technology investment. The FC explained briefly the financial condition of the Town and all agreed to try to create a win-win situation.

Rich Haraty appeared before the FC to answer questions regarding [RFR #10](#) (\$4,000) for Ardsley Road. Mr. Haraty’s request was for visual improvement to an unsightly storm drain. Mr. Haraty recently found a contractor who could complete the required work for \$2,000. The FC voted to approve the \$2,000 request contingent upon approval by the local residents [who had structure visible from their property](#).

The FC briefly discussed some Town Accounts Receivable matters. Mr. Barowsky suggested a policy not to issue permits/licenses to any individual who was not current in all obligations to the Town. The FC agreed.

School Committee member Laura Bertelli asked the FC for its support of additional funding for Longmeadow High School. Ms. Bertelli felt the High School had been victim of funding deficiencies which thereby created the accreditation issue. The FC reminded Ms. Bertelli of the recent School Audit and because it could not direct funding for specific school operational expenses they remained skeptical if the School Dept would expend the funding in appropriate fashion.

The FC took exception to the School Committee sending flyers home with students that stated the FC would be in attendance during an upcoming budget meeting when in fact only certain FC members were contacted near simultaneously (a day or two before the meeting) when the flyers were distributed and in fact had not committed to attending.

The FC discussed recent developments regarding the School budget and questioned the needs based budget vs. the budget assumption which were written to encompass what the Town could afford. The FC questioned the exploding Special Education expenditures and requested some expenditure history before discussing further supplemental Special Education funding.

The School Budget Hearing with the School Committee was moved from March 3rd to March 17th in order to give ample time for the School Committee to prepare a final budget request/recommendation from the FC.

The FC voted to adjourn at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Acting Finance Director