

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee

Wednesday November 7, 2007

Fire Department Meeting Room:

Members Present	Y	N
Carla Gunn, Chairperson	x	
Mark Barowsky, Vice Chairperson	x	
James Law	x	
Jim Nittoli		x
Peter Greenberg	x	
Judd Peskin	x	
Deborah Haas Wilson	x	

Also present was Mike Wrabel.

Carla began the meeting reviewing the agenda. She then introduced Mike Wrabel and asked him for an update on the FY08 actuals as well as any shortfalls he anticipates. Mike started with the actuals expenditures for FY08 and told the committee that the Highway Equipment Maintenance line item and the fuel line item were probably going to fall short. He also discussed the increase in the water and sewer rates with Springfield and if we could possibly get annual budget numbers from Springfield in advance. The next discussion revolved around the increased water and sewer rates and the history relating to these new rates. Mike explained that Longmeadow had some very old meters and the Town needed to update all meters that were 10 years or older. He further explained that due to the old meters and flushing that are not metered as well as unmetered leaks the Town has 28% for unaccounted water not being charged to the actual owners and the Town ends up picking up the charges. Mike also explained that as plan was underway to change all meters to radio controlled to improve this situation and to drastically decrease the number of labor hours spent reading meters manually. Mike then discussed the maintenance budget for the Town and School Buildings and said he would like to have two more full-time employees in this area. The committee questioned the staffing asking what happened to the School staffing. Mike explained that the custodians only help with outside maintenance. The committee then thanked mike for coming and would review his FY09 Budget with him in the near future.

The committee then discussed the annual Finance meeting sponsored by the State for Local Officials and the information that was given out at the conference. The speaker from the State basically said that the Lottery funds were leveling out and that the state Growth numbers of 3% were leveling off. The future did not look robust and that Towns and Cities should not depend on increases in State Funding. The Committee then discussed the Budget documents that would be sent to the Department Heads and agreed that the return date would be February 1, 2008

The committee voted to adjourn at 9:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is December 5, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Choquette, Town Accountant

