

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Thursday, February 3, 2005 7:00pm Longmeadow Fire Dept Meeting Room

Members Present:	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Judd Peskin, Chairperson	x	
Paul Santaniello, Vice Chairperson	x	
Mark Barowsky		x
Carla Gunn	x	
Jerry Nolet	x	
Steven Marantz	x	
Suresh Samant	x	

Departmental Budget Hearings:

Steve Carignan – Superintendent of Building Maintenance presented a revised budget to the Finance Committee (FC). The revised budget incorporated actual salary data with no assumed increases in FY06. Mr. Carignan, since starting the job two months ago studied expenditure data and itemized in great detail how his budget was being spent. He stated that the budgets, both FY05 & FY06, allowed for basic maintenance only and did not allow for repairs. Given some of this budgetary inheritance (large expenditures from Greenwood thermostat replacements and an Asbestos study) Mr. Carignan was projecting a near \$19K budget deficit in his maintenance supplies and repair accounts. A projected \$14.5K surplus in his labor account was available to offset the deficit. Mr. Marantz informed Mr. Carignan of the FC’s desire to move school maintenance out of the school budget and into the newly created Dept. of Public Works (by Charter). Mr. Carignan informed the FC of the shortfall in current square footage maintenance expenditures vs. his reasonable estimated costs. The FC asked Mr. Carignan to present a needs budget for their review.

Paul Pasterczyk, Acting Finance Director presented departmental budgets under the Finance Department umbrella: Town Accountant, Assessors, Treasurer, Collector, Clerk, Election & Registration and Information Technology. Mr. Pasterczyk had prepared a spreadsheet of these departmental budgets (less Election & Registrations due to its relationship to the # of Town elections) and utilizing the budgetary assumptions showed the requests had met the budgetary guidelines. The FC inquired about the reduction in the Assessors Expense and Mr. Pasterczyk had responded it was due to the cost shift to the IT Department of the valuation software maintenance. Mr. Pasterczyk provided the FC with a revised Employee Benefits budget. Recent information from the Regional Retirement Board (17% increase in the retirement assessment) required a reallocation of some funding to meet the budgetary directive. Mr. Santaniello inquired about Health Insurance cost and Mr. Pasterczyk informed the Committee that better Health Insurance

rate information would be available in March. The FC would have to review the Employee Benefits budget once the updated figures were available.

Mr. Pasterczyk provided the FC with updated School Building Assistance (SBA) information. The Town would be receiving approximately \$9.0 million in SBA reimbursement for the Blueberry Hill / Wolf Swamp school projects in June. This would help retire much, but not all, as hoped for, of the \$11.0 million in Bond Anticipation Notes which were due in June 2005. The gap would have to be filled with additional financing which would be determined later depending on expected SBA reimbursement on the remaining amount owed.

Jim Nittoli, School Committee person and Dr. AndersEn, School Superintendent updated the FC on the state of the FY05 School Budget. While a \$269K Special Education budget deficit still existed, the School Department had a plan to eliminate a non-SPED deficit of nearly \$360K. It was noted that the School Committee, School Department and Town Accountant personnel continually try to unravel the FY05 School Budget to create a meaningful budgetary document. The FC planned to meet with Dr. AndersEn on March 3, 2005 to specifically discuss Special Education.

The FC voted to adjourn at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Acting Finance Director