

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Thursday, February 10, 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	

The Finance Committee (FC) voted on the following sets of minutes:

January 20, 2005 approved as presented

January 27, 2005 approved as presented

February 3, 2005 approved as presented

Departmental Budget Hearings:

Carl Sturgis, Executive Director and Larry Eagan, Storrs Library Board of Directors President presented the FY06 Library budget requests. Mr. Sturgis presented a supplemental \$5K request for Library building maintenance. This raised his total needs budget to \$597K. The supplemental request specifically was earmarked for repairing dry rot within the Library. Mr. Samant commented on the small \$18K book budget request and wondered how the Storrs Library request compared to the School's request for Library books (given the population served and the available hours open). Mr. Sturgis defended his staffing request stating it was not only necessary for service purposes but also for security. Mr. Sturgis explained the funding mechanisms required to meet eligibility levels for additional State Aid to Public Library Grants. Examples of the requirements included hours open to the public, funds budgeted for books and total budget criteria. Mr. Barowsky questioned the 6% increase in the Library Assets request. It was noted the step increases accounted for 2.2%, longevity increases were included and the fact that the FY05 base is skewed because of mid-year increases. Town Accountant Paul Pasterczyk stated he verified all rates but would review the hours requested to see if that was a part of the increase. The FC briefly spoke of adding \$2K to the book budget presented under the FC guidelines in order to meet a \$582K minimum Library Budget requirement for grant purposes. The FC felt the maintenance requests should be shifted to the new DPW created under the Charter.

Rich Haraty Acting Highway Superintendent presented the various budgets under his domain, some of which were recently revised. It was noted that two vacancies in the Administration of the departments still existed (Superintendent and Assistant

Superintendent/ Engineering). Both positions were being requested by Mr. Haraty noting that the Charter creates a much larger DPW. Arlene Miller and Irwin Pers presented the Sanitation / Recycling budget. It was noted that the requested 25% increase in the Sanitation/ Recycling line item could be dropped because disposal costs were known and only removal costs were out to bid. The Recycling Commission had presented various proposals to the Select Board to reduce the anticipated increase and its affect on the tax burden. Ms. Miller highlighted the recent recycling contract' which increased revenue to the Town from near \$0 to approximately \$30K. Ms. Miller also asked for the FC's support to maintain the current leaf pick up program. Mr. Haraty reviewed the Water/Sewer line items with the FC. A few concerns were raised over Mr. Haraty's requests and he was to get back to the FC with updated information. Mr. Haraty noted there would be a \$3.0 million sewer loan for Wheelmeadow Brook. This would be done through the State at 2%.

The FC discussed the requested February 15th meeting with the Select Board and the School Committee. The FC decided to postpone the meeting. It was felt that it was premature to discuss the Town's finances at this time.

The FC voted to adjourn at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Acting Finance Director