

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Wednesday March 14, 2007 @ 7:00 PM – Council on Aging Dining Hall

Members Present:	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Judd Peskin - Chairperson	X	
Carla Gunn - Vice Chairperson	X	
Mark Barowsky	X (7:30)	
Steven Marantz	X	
Gerry Nolet	X (7:10)	
Suresh Samant	X	
Deborah Haas-Wilson		X

Also present: Robin Crosbie, Paul Pasterczyk, Christopher Kulig, Paul Santinello, Kathy Grady, Mike Wrabel, Adrian Phaneuf, E. Jahn Hart, Carol Cash
School Committee members: Rob Aseltine, Jim Nittoli, Mary Vogel, Geoff Weigand

DPW Director Mike Wrabel was present to discuss his request to hire a full-time plumber and full-time electrician. He presented a handout to the Committee detailing the costs currently associated with using the LPVEC and hiring private contractors to perform these jobs for the Town. Since these contractors are required by State law to pay the minimum prevailing wage, the Town is paying in excess of \$40/hour for each service call. His proposal to hire these two individuals would not involve an addition of new personnel to the DPW. He would transfer one building maintenance worker to the grounds maintenance division and not fill the position of a DPW highway foreman who had retired in January 2007. Mr. Wrabel also stated that there is a huge backlog of routine maintenance that needs to be done as well as a number of projects that could be completed at a substantially reduced cost by using Town workers instead of hiring outside contractors. The Committee was satisfied with his explanations and agreed to endorse his budget as presented.

7:35pm *The Public Forum for the FY08 Budget is opened.*

Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk reported that the Free Cash estimate for FY08 would be approximately \$800,000.

Mr. Pasterczyk was asked if the current FY08 revenue projection for State Aid included the Governor's revision. He replied that the budget was based on prior estimates and the Governor's budget was approximately \$7600 higher. He was also asked about the increase in bank interest expected in FY08. He reported that the increase was due to a lump-sum School Building Authority reimbursement that the Town received following the completion of an audit of the BBH/WS construction project. He noted that this sum would be held in reserve and drawn down upon each year for the remainder of the outstanding bond.

Arlene Miller asked about what was being done with the Community Preservation Act surcharges that were being collected by the Town. She was told that the money was

being held in a separate fund and could not be spent without a vote of Town Meeting. It was noted that there was no article dealing with these funds on the upcoming warrant.

It was noted that the SPED deficit for FY07 was approximately \$410,000 and that if costs remained the same for FY08, the School Committee's budget request would be sufficient to cover all projected expenditures, collective bargaining notwithstanding.

8:46pm *The Public Budget Forum was closed.*

The Committee discussed various recommendations for the School Department's FY08 budget. Mark Barowsky moved that the Finance Committee recommend adding \$510,000 to the Town Manager's FY08 School Dept General Fund budget. The Committee voted 3-3 on this motion.

Steve Marantz moved that the Committee recommend the Town Manager's FY08 School Dept General Fund budget as presented. The Committee voted 3-3 on this motion.

Judd Peskin suggested that the Committee vote again at a future meeting when all seven members are present. The rest of the Committee agreed.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Kulig
Town Accountant