

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Monday March 19, 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	
Steven Marantz	x	
Gerry Nolet	x	
Suresh Samant	x	
Deborah Haas-Wilson	x	

Also present: Paul Pasterczyk, Christopher Kulig, Paul Santinello, William Scibelli

Prior to continued discussion on the School Dept FY08 General Fund budget, Judd Peskin expressed seven thoughts to the Committee:

1. He gave credit to the current School Committee and Finance Sub Committee for their increased efforts in budget transparency. The FC agreed that this budget was the most transparent they had seen in recent memory.
2. He believed that their FY08 total expenditure budget was slightly overstated.
3. Additional attrition of School Dept employees should be expected.
4. The Finance Committee should be supportive of the Superintendent and School Committee.
5. The Finance Committee should remember that a collective bargaining agreement has not yet been signed for School employees.
6. By discontinuing the School Choice program, hiring a highly-proficient business manager, and keeping class size down, he hoped that future costs could be kept down with the theory being that smaller class sizes would lead to fewer SPED referrals by regular-ed teachers.
7. The Finance Committee should not be a “rubber stamp” for the Select Board.

It was also noted that the School Committee would not be replacing two graduating METCO students for the 2007-2008 school year.

The current calculation for the variance between the School Committee’s budget request and the Town’s Manager’s recommended General Fund budget is \$530,749. With the expected retirement of the Athletic Director and funds carried forward from FY07, the difference is approximately \$400,000. It was voted 6-1 (Nolet) that the Finance Committee recommend a General Fund budget of \$25,323,208 for the School Dept for FY08, an increase of \$400,000.

The Finance Committee voted unanimously to endorse the following articles to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 24, 2007:

- 4 - Transfer of funds between capital items to eliminate deficit.
- 5 - Sewer Bills of Prior Year
- 8 - Rescind excess prior borrowing authorizations.
- 9 - Appropriate Ch. 90 funds to be received.
- 10 - Funding of Capital Projects.
- 11 - Borrowing of funds for water main replacement on Wenonah Rd.
- 12 - Increase prior borrowing amount for Wheelmeadow Brook Sewer Interceptor.
- 13 - Appropriate funds for 3-year property revaluation.

The Committee voted 6-1 (Barowsky) to endorse Article #3 (FY07 SPED deficit funding / increase solid waste removal budget / increase legal expense budget) to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 24, 2007.

The Committee voted 6-1 (Nolet) to endorse Article #6 (FY08 budget) to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 24, 2007.

The Committee voted 5-2 (Gunn, Marantz) to endorse Article #14 (authorize previously-borrowed excess funds in the amount of \$5,359.33 to be spent on Wheelmeadow Brook Sewer Interceptor) to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 24, 2007.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Kulig
Town Accountant