

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Thursday, March 24, 2005 – 7:00 pm 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	
Steven Marantz	x	
Jerry Nolet	x	
Suresh Samant	x	

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

- March 3, 2005 – accepted as amended
- March 10, 2005 – accepted as presented
- March 17, 2005 – accepted as presented

The FC reviewed the first draft of the FY06 budget prepared by Paul Pasterczyk (based upon deliberations during budget hearings over the last few months). The FC discussed the hidden costs of elected positions where stipends are paid ie. health insurance. The committee voted 6-0-1 (Nolet abstained) to eliminate all stipends for elected officials.

The FC discussed with Robin Crosbie, Town Manager and Scott Andersen, School Superintendent maintenance of Town property and the change required within the Charter. The FC was committed to property maintenance and voted 6-1(Santaniello-no) to fund the incremental portion the School Maintenance needs budget, \$236K, in a separate non-school line in the budget. Funding for this level of maintenance would come from the FY05 free cash. It was estimated that \$72 - \$80K of the \$236K was for salary expenditures. Mr. Santaniello voiced his concern over the Charter implementation and how some matters are being handled pre-charter fashion and other according to the charter. Ms. Crosbie had previously told the FC that the Select Board would be submitting the budget to Town Meeting in accordance with the Charter (as opposed to the Finance Committee / pre-Charter method)

School Committee person Jim Nittoli presented draft ballot questions the School Committee (SC) would be seeking. He explained the menu option choice of the SC with the different levels of services/dollars being sought. Mr. Nittoli asked if the FC could endorse the SC requests. Mr. Pasterczyk questioned whether employee benefits were included in the SC numbers where additional staff was sought. Mr. Marantz made mention of the current School collective bargaining agreement and their effect on driving the level service number requested. Mr. Barowky stated that property taxes have risen 25% over the last years and that the taxpayers are tired of paying.

The FC agreed to fund the Day Care Salaries at a level of \$256K and add approximately \$13K to the Library Salaries so level service can be achieved.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Town Accountant