

Minute of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Council on Aging Dining Area
April 10, 2008

Members Present	Y	N
Carla Gunn, Chairperson	x	
Mark Barowsky, Vice Chairperson	x	
James Law	x	
Jim Nittoli	x	
Peter Greenberg	x	
Judd Peskin		x
Deborah Haas Wilson	x	

The finance Committee (FC) voted to approve the March 12, 2008 minutes presented.

The FC continued deliberations on Article #3 of the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) dealing with the estimated Special Education deficit in FY08. As a result of some of the amounts requested still being a best estimate at the time prepared, the FC opted not to take a position at this time but would instead meet prior to the ATM. FC Chairperson, Carla Gunn, will contact School Committee Chairperson Weigand to request an updated projection on the matter.

The FC discussed future of Town's budget. The committee asked Finance Director, Paul Pasterczyk, about FY09 "free cash" but more specifically the FY08 appropriation turnbacks that would feed into the FY09 "free cash". Mr. Pasterczyk responded with an estimated amount of large turn backs, \$150K employee benefits/liability insurance and 100K School substitutes. Other than those two items it would be many small line item turn backs that would have to add up. Mr. Pasterczyk was asked to review the potential turn backs and update a FY09 "free cash" estimate.

The FC digressed a little going back to the Special Education discussion. It was noted that the Schools have recently started an internal review of the Special Education costs and also just changed their Special Education legal counsel.

The Committee picked up from prior weeks its discussion on the FY09 budget recommendation Mr. Pasterczyk had provided and explained an allocation of the FY09 budget broken down into School (71.74%) and Town (28.26%) after excluding self funded programs and debt within the operating budget proposed for the ATM. The FC was concerned over the long term forecast of municipal budget (which allows a shortfall in FY10 and beyond). The FC was concerned about the \$89K proposed to be used from the Operating Stabilization Fund at this time. The FC began to discuss an allocation of budget reductions so not to use the \$89K in balancing the budget. Mr. Pasterczyk pointed out to the FC that in FY08 the Schools utilized \$136K in prior year School Choice funds to help balance their FY08 budget and that in FY09 no prior year School Choice was being utilized even though a balance of \$186K plus existed.

The committee voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul J. Pasterczyk

