

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Wednesday, May 4, 2005 – 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	

This originally scheduled May 5th meeting was rescheduled to May 4th to accommodate Paul Santaniello and a candidate's forum.

Chairperson Peskin opened the meeting by reading a letter of thanks from a resident.

The following sets of minutes were voted upon:

March 24, 2005	accepted as presented
March 31, 2005	accepted as presented
April 24, 2005	accepted as presented

The Committee discussed the flurry of e-mails they have been getting along with the statistical data being portrayed. Mr. Pasterczyk distributed *budget only* data FY03-FY06 (see attached) that showed different statistics than the *expenditure to budget* data being mentioned in many of the e-mails. The Committee discussed the interpretations of both sets of data. The Committee agreed not to get involved with statistical arguments and to concentrate on two points at the upcoming Town Meeting:

1. Elected Officials stipends
2. FY06 School Budget numbers

The Committee acknowledged the Fire Chief's letter dated April 18th highlighting possible shortfalls in some FY05 budgetary accounts.

Mr. Pasterczyk informed the Committee of the recent signing of the Fire Chief's personal services contract. Mr. Pasterczyk informed the Board of its right at this time to make line item transfers which he suggested as a mechanism for funding the FY05 portion of the contract. The contract allowed for normal step increases and COLA's equal to what other collective bargaining units would negotiate. Mr. Barowsky pointed out to the group that it was this very concept of step increase and COLA that was ill affordable by the Town. There was a motion and seconded to transfer from the Highway Superintendents Salary line item \$1,856; to the Fire Chief Salary line item \$628; and to the Civil Defense Expense line item \$1,228.

The Committee voted 0-5 and the motion was defeated.

School Superintendent AndersEn addressed the Committee mentioning that the current school projections show a possible \$140K surplus at year-end and Dr. AndersEn suggested a group discussion on how this surplus should be handled.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Town Accountant