

**Minutes
Meeting of
Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee
Thursday – September 28, 2006
Police Station Community Room
7:30 pm**

Chair Person Brian Ashe called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Present (as signed in):

Select Board Persons: Brian Ashe, William Scibelli, Hal Haberman, Paul Santaniello, Kathleen Grady.

Finance Committee Persons: Judd Peskin, Suresh Samant, Gerry Nolet, Carla Gunn, Deborah Hass-Wilson, Mark Barowsky.

School Committee Persons: Mary Vogel, Christine Swanson, Jim Nittoli, Bobby Barkett, Jerold Duquette, Geoff Weigand.

Also Present: Capital Planning Chair Mark Gold; Director of Finance Paul Pasterczyk; Town Manager Robin Crosbie; School Business Director Carol Cash; J. Occhiuti and D. Nadeau

Brian Ashe, Chair Person of the Select Board, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to be there.

7:44 pm Finance Overview - Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk- Paul Pasterczyk discussed the Town's FY06 operating results and provided the group with detailed reports. He reviewed status and projections for FY07. As a result of the FY06 operations, Mr. Pasterczyk estimated the FY07 Free Cash to be \$1 million, comprised of \$720 in excess revenues and \$280 from unexpended appropriations. Mr. Pasterczyk mentioned that in his twenty years being employed by the Town he has never seen the unexpended appropriations so low. He mentioned that the projections for FY08 can be misleading as they show no impact from the School Committee for their collective Bargaining Agreement.

8:50 pm Town Operating Budget Update FY07 & FY08 – Town Manager Robin Crosbie- The Town has locked in their fuel rates and have a small energy reserve. More help is needed for the school and town grounds. A land use person is needed to prevent more issues in litigation. She reviewed several other items that are in process and needs that will be arising in the next few years. Health insurance rates are stabilizing and retirement costs look good for FY07.

8:55 pm FY07 School Operating Budget Update and FY08 Strategic Planning – Chair Person Mary Vogel and Superintendent Jahn Hart- Vice Chair Person Jim Nattoli addressed the group regarding the FY07 Operating Budget for the Schools. Contracts are not signed so step increases are included. The steps total about \$245,000 for FY07. The budget from last year was reviewed and some errors were found and rectified with the assistance of Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk. Unexpended FY06 funds and additional state assistance have offset the costs of the steps and the errors. The School Committee is unable to comment on the status of contract negotiations or even estimate amounts to attempt to complete the budget; however he stated that they are moving right along. Superintendent Jahn Hart shared that they are in process of

reviewing the Strategic Plan and one goal they have is to have more reasonable deadlines. She reviewed a handout outlining the Strategic Plan and expected outcomes. The entire plan is available online.

8:14 pm Capital Spending Update / Needs Review – Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Superintendent Jahn Hart - There are many projects that are ongoing throughout the Town and many more needs. Town Manager Robin Crosbie reminded the group that it is a long process to get Capital projects started. They require specs, bids and a staff to complete. Mark Gold (Capital Planning) pointed out \$60,000 set aside to start a needs study of Center School and mentioned that that type of planning could be done in the future for other needs in Town. Mary Vogel asked if a Town Wide Facilities Committee was still a plan. Select Person William Scibelli wanted to know the status of projects on the Capital Spending list. He is extremely frustrated that the Capital Spending list is so incomplete. He feels very strongly about hiring the personnel needed to get these jobs done. Bobby Barkett (School Committee) agrees that a Facilities Committee needs to get going. An asset list needs to be made and prioritized. Chair Person Brian Ashe concurred. The following individuals stepped up and offered to be a part of the new Facilities Improvement Committee for the Town of Longmeadow:

Bob Barkett, Mark Borowsky, William Scibelli, Judd Peskin and Paul Santaniello

8:42 pm Discussion – FY08 Budget Strategy – Judd Peskin feels the focus should be on FY07 now. Without the salary numbers from the School Committee which makes up 70% of the budget, there is no way to work a budget. Select Person William Scibelli stated that the residents of Longmeadow know that with the budget crisis over the last three years the Town is running very lean. Any cut that can be made has been made. There was some talk of a three year override plan in May. There was much discussion concerning creating an Executive Board consisting of one member from each committee, their Chairs, Town Manager and Paul Pasterczyk to discuss budget issues and report back to their respective boards. It was decided to schedule another meeting with these boards in six weeks to come back with new information gathered and start to build the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary