

Longmeadow Finance Committee

Our mission, as taken from the town charter: The finance committee shall be an advisory committee to the town meeting ...shall have jurisdiction over the reserve fund... shall conduct long range fiscal planning... shall advise on fiscal policy... shall direct the budget review process...and shall advise the town's voters on budget suitability to meet town services needs.

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of July 27, 2010

Meeting held in the Adult Center Dining Room

Start time: 7:15pm

Members present: Mark Barowsky, Chairperson; Peter Greenberg; James Law; Richard Liasse; Edward (Ned) Steiger; Roger Wojcik, Clerk

Members Absent: No one

Others in Attendance: Paul Pasterczyk

Old Business:

The committee discussed at length a worksheet prepared by Paul Pasterczyk's office which summarized in detail General Fund revenues and direct & indirect operating expenses for FY's 2008, 2009 and 2010 and the budget for FY 2011. The committee requested background information on several unexpected variances, asked Paul to provide similar information on revenues and expenses other than those which are General Fund related, requested him to separate School budget information into non-SPED and SPED segments and requested Paul ascertain where in the spreadsheet the outsourced town custodial budget was located.

New Business:

A motion was made and seconded to give the authority to the FC Chairman, Mark Barowsky, to make decisions on the use of the Finance Committee Reserve Fund until the next regular meeting of the entire committee. Approved unanimously.

Richard Liasse requested that the committee endorse a proposed policy which would have the town manager report annually as to the effect of granting a COLA to all full time employees and have the Select Board take this report under advisement and consider if such action would result in loss of service or reduction of employee and effect on the tax rate. Richard will be taking this proposal to a future Select board meeting.

A number of suggestions were made by Roger Wojcik to potentially improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee's work.

- The committee discussed at length a suggestion that it formally evaluate only the final Select board approved copy of the FY2012, so as to avoid confusion on what material the Finance Committee has actually approved. To streamline the committee's budget review schedule, it was suggested that we start the budget development process earlier in the budget year, coordinate the committee's departmental reviews with those of the Select Board, recommend a buffer in the town budget development schedule to absorb unavoidable timing problems and

set committee approval on that Warrant which is ready for printing; all these suggestions will be discussed with the Select Board.

- The committee discussed at length a suggestion that it assume the role in town meetings mandated for it by the Charter and defined in Town Meeting Time. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to have Mark Barowsky review this role with the town moderator.
- Ned Steiger proposed and the committee discussed a suggestion that the committee have a presence in all town labor contract negotiations so as to be able understand from first hand information contract options and their impact on town costs.
- Other suggestions will be reviewed at future meetings.

A motion was made, seconded and approved that the committee join the Association of Town Finance Committees, with Richard Liasse being the point man for the committee.

(Wojcik was asked to bring the town's 5 year Capital Plan to the next meeting.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Minutes prepared by Roger Wojcik, Clerk