

Minutes of the Longmeadow Finance Committee
Thursday, March 3, 2005 – 7:00pm Longmeadow Fire Dept Meeting Room

Members Present:	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Judd Peskin, Chairperson	x	
Paul Santaniello, Vice Chairperson	x	(late)
Mark Barowsky	x	
Carla Gunn	x	
Steven Marantz	x	
Jerry Nolet	x	
Suresh Samant	x	

Steve Carignan, Superintendent of Town/School Buildings was before the Finance Committee updating the Committee on FY05 matters and providing additional information on his FY06 budget request. Mr. Carignan explained the Superintendent's Salary shortfall (\$1,708) – it related to the one-month overlap of time he and his predecessor Fran Boudreau spent together. Mr. Pasterczyk explained a portion of the shortfall was related to handling of year-end payroll matters. Mr. Carignan identified a \$22K shortfall in the Repairs Maintenance budget along with a \$14K surplus in the Custodian Salary line. Mr. Marantz felt strongly this shortfall should be handled at Town Meeting to show openness/transparency. The FC concurred. Mr. Carignan explained his “needs budget” as it related to the Town & School expenditures. He felt it imperative that the budget contains funding for preventive maintenance vs the current crises management funding level.

Mr. Carignan explained the School's RFR #11 - \$10,000 for structural engineering reports for failing walls at the High School and Williams School. The FC voted favorably to an amount equal to exact quotes.

The FC discussed RFR #13 – Town Building Superintendent Salary \$1,708 but did not vote on the matter until documentation was submitted.

The FC met with School Superintendent, Dr. AndersEn and the Director of Pupil Services, Dr. Cuphone to discuss Special Education financing. Dr. AndersEn opened by saying he works under the guide of trying to find win-win situations. He noted Special Education projections and costs change over time. Dr. AndersEn also noted that he had been working under an assumption of how the School Account – Special Education Reserve (\$400K) was to be expended – mainly it set aside for out-of-district placements. Dr. AndersEn identified certain internal Special Education programs which saved 10's of thousands of dollars when compared to potential out-of-district placements. Dr. AndersEn was a believer in early intervention to prevent Special Education costs. Given these factors Dr. AndersEn felt that greater flexibility in the expenditure of the \$400K Special Education Reserve could be a win-win situation. Dr. AndersEn proposed to the Committee that the \$400K Special Education Reserve account be eliminated and the funds be granted in the school budget to allow the flexibility in handling the districts

Special Education needs. When asked if the proposal would eliminate in end of year Town Special Education supplemental appropriation Dr. AndersEn was confident it would.

The FC voted to eliminate the \$400K Special Education Reserve appropriation and place the funds in the regular School budget.

The FC voted to adjourn at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Pasterczyk
Town Accountant