

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF MEETING  
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING  
 3/2/05

ATTENDEES:

MacGaffigan*	Fay*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*		
Tosti*	Foskett	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

\* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Paul Beyer

MINUTES of 2/23/05 approved. Unanimous.

The following articles were discussed with the Manager.

ART 44 TOWN CELEBRATIONS: Sullivan requested same funding as this year. During discussion the FinCom decided to delete holiday lighting which had received \$0 for several years. VOTED \$12,067 distributed as this year. Unanimous.

ART 46 MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS: Sullivan requested

\$0 for legal defense

\$100k for unemployment compensation but suggested FinCom check w/ schools (Fanning to contact Adelman)

\$3k for out of town travel

\$0 for revaluation

\$10k (approximate) indemnification of medical costs. Sullivan to provide exact figure by email next week.

VOTED \$113k Unanimous

ART 49 SEWER RECONSTRUCTION: Sullivan requested \$750k to be obtained from MWRA 55% loan/45% grant. VOTED \$750k. Unanimous.

ART 50 WATER MAINS RECONSTRUCTION: Sullivan requested \$1m to be obtained from the MWRA as a no interest 10yr loan. VOTED \$1,000,000. Unanimous.

ART 52 POSITION RECLASSIFICATION: Sullivan said the Personnel Dept is working on this. O'Neill to follow up.

ART 54 PEIRCE SCHOOL: Sullivan said there is an overrun of \$64k attributed to unexpected soil conditions under the old building and architect expenses to cover supervision of punch list closeout. He said the schools might contribute \$15000. He does not know if funds remain in other school building accounts. Kneeland to request hearing with PTBC.

OTHER QUESTIONS: Howard asked 4 questions that came up in previous meetings.

TRANSFER REQUEST FOR FIRE CHIEF SELECTION: Sullivan explained that there are 2 procedures available under civil service rules. A written competitive exam which would take about a year to yield candidates. An "assessment center" at which candidates are tested by a panel of experts using role playing. He selected the latter saying candidates consider the it grueling but fair. It also yields a candidate list in much shorter time. Candidates (there were 6) must be from the Arlington department and be either deputy chiefs or captains. Manager must select from top 3 on list. VOTED to approve \$9500 transfer from Reserve Fund as requested. Unanimous

CONCOM BUDGET: Sullivan recommends appropriating the ConCom budget under the Planning Department because the ConCom administrator is a town employee. He thinks the ConCom fee fund should be used to offset this expense. Because the fees are set to defray actual costs he sees no conflict of interest. He agrees w/ the chair that if the actual costs have increased from \$14k to more than \$20k then something is not right. He also agreed that work done for other departments could be grey billed. Tosti to investigate.

PLANNING BUDGET: Sullivan said he would like to fill the assistant director position but is concerned with budget limitations. He said that the housing director (funded from CDBG) can take on more Planning Dept work now that the Housing Corporation has a professional manager. The work load at Symmes should begin to shift to the Inspection Dept. Sullivan did not comment on the Zoning Review Committee's request to hire a planner consultant.

WORKMANS COMP: Sullivan is aware of this recent increase request. He will have a recommendation next week.

OVERRIDE PLAN: Using the spread sheets prepared by his office, Sullivan walked the FinCom through a plan showing how the approach suggested by Selectman Lyons which includes a \$6m override, would carry the Town budget through 5 years. He pointed out that most of the revenue assumptions are conservative (low). He was not sure if the Symmes property tax revenue was included. Members pointed out inconsistencies between the w/ & w/o spreadsheets. Members expressed doubts about the realism of the state aid & pay limitation assumptions. Sullivan defended the plan. Members stated that the spreadsheets are clear and they generally support the plan. They believe that some due diligence review is desirable before a vote. VOTED to table and appoint a committee (Jones (Chair), Olsen, DeCoursey) to follow up on questions & report back within 2 weeks. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Next meeting on Mon 3/7/05.

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/6/05

cc Selectmen, finch Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site