

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
2/13/06

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Assessors Kevin Feeley (Chair), Jim Doherty; 200th Anniversary Committee Members Roly Chaput, Michael Ruderman; Fiscal Resources Task Group Chair & Recycling Committee Chair Gordon Jamieson, Chris Loretto, Julie Dunn, Marvin Lewiton

MINUTES of 2/6/06 meeting were accepted as printed. Unanimous.

DART (Draft Article) 52 PENSION ADJUSTMENT: Hearing held 2/6. VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

DART 53 DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR VETERANS: Hearing held 2/6. After some review & discussion, VOTED favorable action. 11-3. It is the understanding of the FinCom that this benefit, both retroactive & annual, will be funded within the 4% cap promised to the voters during the override campaign.

DART 60 200th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Chaput, using a handout, reviewed plans for the celebration to take place in FY07 & FY08. The emphasis will be on events sponsored by various town organizations at their cost. He also presented a \$100k nominal expense budget with a fund raising schedule. He requested \$50k seed money. After considerable discussion, Tosti asked him to return in April w/ some evidence of fund raising potential

DART 26 EXEMPTION & DEFERENTIAL INFO: Loretto proposes to get home rule legislation that would allow exemption & deferral info to be included in the tax bill mailings. He provided a copy of similar information used by Cambridge last year. He stated that those who are eligible should receive exemptions and that deferrals could be advantageous to the Town as well as the recipient. Doherty supported this initiative.

DART 29 SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS: The Assessors are seeking home rule legislation to reduce interest (now 8%) and increase eligibility for these deferrals. Doherty says few seniors now qualify. The Treasurer would set the rate. Exemptions now cost about \$300k. A \$50 eligibility increase costs about \$30k.

DART 15 ASSESSORS REPORT: Jamieson proposes a bylaw that would require the Assessors to report a history of the overlay reserve & also would provide details of the assessment process. The purpose of this report would be to improve public visibility into the assessment process & the use of the town moneys. Speaking for the Assessors, Feeley said a report on the overlay reserve would be feasible but that a description of the assessment process would be difficult.

DART 12 HEALTH CARE RESERVE FUND: J Dunn seeks an annual report on this fund saying it is a large fund and there is little visibility. Members questioned the cost of this report (and the reports proposed in other articles). Perhaps this could be included in the new annual Budget Plan that the manager began this year.

ART 34 COMPREHENSIVE FIRE STATION REBUILDING PLAN: Lewiton would like to see a comprehensive plan before Central or Highland are renovated. Funds for a study are in the Capital Plan but the scope of this study is uncertain. Members expressed concern that a study to conclude the obvious & which might be ignored would be a waste of money.

ART 35 SERVICES TO NON PROFITS: Jamieson believes that free trash pickup is enjoyed by some but not all churches, clubs, & private schools. He also reminded the FinCom that ACH uses Pierce Field free of charge. He estimates the cost to the Town at \$200k. Members suggested that some of these organizations provide social services to the Town which might have to be paid by the taxpayers if the non profits were to close.

ART 13 RECYCLING BYLAW AMENDMENT: Jamieson stated that the Recycling Committee is considering a fine for not recycling as a means to increase recycling. This would require a bylaw and a part time trash inspector. The savings & earnings from increased recycling, \$100k+, would offset the cost of a new position.

COMMITTEE: The Chair announced that Paul Bayer, a longtime observer at FinCom mtgs, had been appointed to fill the vacant Pct 17 position. An FY07 Financial Plan book from the Town Manager was distributed. Next mtg Wednesday 2/15

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$248,590.66

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/14/06

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