

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
3/22/06

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: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski
MINUTES of 3/20/06 meeting were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

MANAGER ARTICLES: Sullivan, assisted by Galkowski answered many questions on the following articles.

ART 35 REVOLVING FUNDS: Sullivan proposed 3 new revolving funds – Library Reading Room, Town Hall Auditorium (both expected to become an income stream) and Recycling (to fund efforts to increase recycling, especially at apartment buildings). The first 2 will take rental income. Recycling would take “white goods” etc income now directed to the Tip Fee Stab Fund. The Manager expects disposal savings from recycling to greatly exceed the cost of the outreach effort. Sullivan was asked for a fact sheet to support his expectation.

ART 38 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: Sullivan explained his opposition to coalition bargaining according to State law. It is difficult to get out of once accepted, it brings retirees to the bargaining table on health care, it gives large unions control over small ones, and it will make it more difficult to tie wages & benefits together. He is confident in his understanding of this topic. The Town has an agreement w/ the health insurance agent that union specific plans can be written @ no extra cost. Joining a regional health care program would increase Arlington’s costs since other towns have worse claims records. Joining a State plan would make us subject to legislative action.

VOTED no report at this time. Unanimous.

ART 45 TOWN CELEBRATIONS: No change from last year. VOTED \$12,067. Unanimous.

ART 46 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: No change from last year. (ConCom is in Planning Budget.) VOTED \$13,160. Unanimous.

ART 47 MISCELLANEOUS: Sullivan will verify the indemnification bill. VOTED \$38,667 with the proviso that the Chair may modify this amount w/o further vote if the Manager comes up w/ a different indemnification figure. Unanimous.

ART 48 SEWER FINANCING: Sullivan requested \$336,600 from a grant and \$411,000 to be borrowed from MRWA at no interest. Tabled until the W&S EP Fund is presented. The borrowing costs are supposed to be in the EP Fund.

ART 49 WATER FINANCING: Sullivan requested \$1m be borrowed from the MWRA at no interest. Tabled until the W&S EP Fund is presented. The borrowing costs are supposed to be in the EP Fund.

ART 54 LOCAL OPTION TAXES: None known. VOTED no report at this time. Unanimous.

ART 55 GIS INFORMATION: Dunn to draft an explanation for the no action vote.

ART 56 MINUTEMAN SENIOR SERVICES: Deyst to draft an explanation of the no action vote.

ART 57 HARRY BARBOUR PROGRAM: Deyst to draft an explanation of the supportive vote.

OTHER TOPICS: Sullivan is going out to bid on electricity early in order to verify budget estimates. He says the step increase in the street light budget was caused by transferring traffic light maintenance to this budget. He plans to investigate an agreement w/ Winchester for Morningside fire coverage. He wants authority in the vote on the human services budget to transfer funds when he reorganizes.

ART 60 TIP FEE STAB FUND: No input now except interest & white goods recycling proceeds. VOTED \$680,000. Unanimous.

ART 61 CEMETERY: Uncertain whether funds exist. Tabled.

ART 62 OVERLAY RESERVE: VOTED \$400,000. Unanimous.

ART 63 STABILIZATION FUND: The override funds put aside for FY08-FY10 go here. VOTED \$2.1m. Unanimous.

BUD 16 PUBLIC WORKS: PW SubCom (Olson) recommended a modified budget with changes shown on a summary chart handout. He included a \$10k increase in the snow & ice budget which will be overspent this year by at least \$275k. (Paid by next years taxes & included in FinCom budget.) The trash costs are in the highway budget. Bayer to craft an explanatory table on trash costs for the appendix. VOTED \$6,496,522. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: A school enrollment chart was provided. ART 24 on 3/27. Town Counsel, on 4/5. The House budget bill is due out of committee on 4/12. May require budget adjustments.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: 78,590.66 (163,590.66)

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/23/06 Revised 3/26/06

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