

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
4/12/06

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

MINUTES of 4/5/06 meeting were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

OVERVIEW: Tosti stated that the budget proposed by House Ways & Means would reduce Arlington's share of Chapt 70 by \$360k relative to the Governor's budget. He has talked w/ our legislators. We will proceed assuming the reduction is restored.

Tosti used the budget summary prepared by Jones to review budget votes.

RECREATION EF: HumSer SubCom (Deyst) said that the Manager had urged the department to propose a more realistic budget. Deyst made numerous changes to the budget book in both revenues & expenditures. VOTED Expenses \$585,668; Revenues \$597,000. Unanimous.

RINK EF: HumSer SubCom (Deyst) made similar changes in this budget. The capital plan for the rink is being worked on and may not be fully reflected in this budget.

VOTED Expenses \$459,340; Revenue \$459,600. 13-2

TRANSFER: From Reserve Fund to Legal Budget as requested by Maher on 2/22.

FinCom had approved \$25k of \$50k requested & encumbered the rest. Voted to approve the remaining \$25k. Unanimous.

TRANSFER: From Reserve Fund to Town Clerk. GenGov SubCom (DuBois) to review.

ART 64 USE OF FREE CASH: Tosti proposed appropriating \$350k more than half the available free cash since the Symmes revenues are much reduced from the expected amount due to the legal challenge. VOTED \$1,939,695 and the chair has the authority to reduce this by any surplus that may become available. Unanimous.

BUD 21b VETERANS SERVICES: HumSer SubCom (Deyst) recommended on reconsideration that the veteran's aid line be reduced to \$140k from \$175k. VOTED \$193,311 Unanimous.

BUD 5 COMPTROLLER: The BOS has made no decision on the Comptroller's salary. They requested a salary reserve. VOTED to add a salary reserve of \$1,500.

Unanimous.

BUD 6 TREASURER: After reviewing the comparative salary info gathered by Personnel, and after some discussion, the FinCom decided to make no changes in the budget voted on 3/8.

ART 39 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: VOTED \$350k for Town employee & school custodian salaries. Unanimous.

ART 42 CAPITAL BUDGET: VOTED to reduce this budget by \$3k so that the cost of the scissors lift in the capital budget matches the cost in the Rink EF. Unanimous.

Funding of technology improvements (\$250k+) at Stratton & Thompson is being studied.

ART 28 TAX DEFERRALS: Tosti reported that the BOS voted to reduce the interest rate to 0% & to raise the qualifying income to under \$40k. Based on a loud voice vote, FinCom members are concerned that this decision was made w/ insufficient info. DeCoursey to check law. Fey to check reverse mortgage interest rates. Tosti to speak w/ BOS.

BUD 7 POSTAGE Upon reconsideration of 3/8 vote, to correct an error, VOTED \$147,182. Unanimous.

ART 63 STABILIZATION FUND: VOTED \$2.1m as indicated in the 5 yr plan. Unanimous.

ART 51 DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS: Upon reconsideration of the 2/13 vote, separate votes required to accept separate sections of the law. VOTED to accept Section 1. 13-2. VOTED to accept Section 2. 12-3.

W&S EF W&S EF SubCom(Ferrara) gave answers to questions asked 3/27. The fund needs a 10% reserve since the use of water is somewhat unpredictable. The Director is working on a capital plan. The current planned rate increases are 25%, 5%, 5%. The next series may be 12%, 12%, 9%. The health insurance cost was over budgeted last year which explains the lack of increase this year. Ferrara again reviewed the automated meter reading plans. Other towns approach this responsibility in different ways. Arlington's approach is neither the most nor the least expensive.

COMMITTEE

Tentative date for next mtg is Saturday 4/29. Mtg will be to make necessary cuts if House doesn't reverse local aid reductions.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: 78,590.66 (163,590.66-25,000=138,590.66)

Peter B Howard Secretary 4/13/06 Revised 4/26

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