

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING  
4/11/07

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: School Superintendent Nate Levenson, School CFO Sue Mazzarella, Town Manager Brian Sullivan

MINUTES of 4/9/07 accepted. Unanimous.

BUD 19 EDUCATION: Levenson, using a handout, (a detailed budget book had been provided a week earlier) walked the FinCom through the goals of the district for FY08 and the measures proposed to achieve these goals. The budget was developed with extensive input from the staff, School Committee, and parents. It stays within the 4% 5 year plan limit. It includes some reduction in staff and some increase in fees. These steps are needed to pay for the increased cost of SPED which is increasing its bite of the school budget 2% annually. In addition, \$150k will be withdrawn from the SPED fund established last year. The budget addresses identified needs, especially for children at risk. He plans to devote one business office staff member to cost containment with an initial emphasis on purchasing supplies. The School Committee will not vote on the budget until 4/24, after the election & 1<sup>st</sup> night of Town Meeting. Levenson answered numerous, wide-ranging questions from FinCom members. His answers were detailed and to the point.

Education SubCom (Fanning, Ronan) recommended supporting the budget as presented. Members debated whether it was appropriate to vote before the School Committee. Those in favor of waiting were concerned that the post-election School Committee might make undesirable changes. Those wanting to vote see value in providing the FinCom report on the 1<sup>st</sup> night and further, should undesirable changes be made, the FinCom could reconsider its vote & oppose the budget at Town Meeting.

VOTED \$36,775,603. 14-2-1

ART 39, 40, STM ART2: Sullivan reported (details had been provided by email) that Agreements had been reached with all unions except fire & police for 2 years. This agreement is for a FY07 COLA of 2.5% with "tier 1" increases in worker contributions to health insurance. An additional 0.5% would be paid should all unions agree to the full health insurance increases, both "tier 1" which don't require agreement of all unions to implement and "tier 2" which do. In addition the agreement is for a FY08 COLA of 3%. The employee share of premiums for new hires will be 25% starting 7/1/07. The library union is renegotiating its FY08 contract. The Manager noted that the means test for the 15% copay for retiree health insurance recently approved by the BoS will affect only a few people. VOTED \$333,500 for FY07 on STM ART 2, \$698,280 for FY08 in ART 39, and \$446,725 for future collective bargaining agreements in ART 40. 16-1

ART 41 RECLASSIFICATION: DPW SubCom (Olsen) had investigated the DPW Operation Manager position and found it was a change in title & grade, but not a new position. VOTED to include the DPW Operation Manager (Item 3B) in the list of

recommendations as originally proposed for \$9,213. Unanimous.

RINK CONTRACT: After the discussion at the last meeting, Tosti investigated and found that the Town has a copy of the contract (25 yr) which has been signed by the Manager but not by the State. He is working on a plan with private parties & the State.

COMMITTEE: Next meeting before second session of Town Meeting, 4/25

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$220,000

Peter B Howard Secretary 4/12/07 Revised 4/16/07

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

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Result Unlisted votes were unanimous
18	Data Processing Department Transfer	2/21	2/21,4/9	Favorable action
26	Pension Funding	2/21	2/21	No action
27	Health Care Trust Funds	2/5	2/21	No action
28	Rental Receipts	3/14	3/21	No action 10-2
36	SPED Fund			Tosti to investigate
39	Collective Bargaining	3/14	4/11	\$698,280 16-1
40	Future Collective Bargaining	3/14	4/11	\$446,725 16-1
41	Positions reclassification	4/4	4/9,4/11	\$39,952
42	Carbon Bank	2/5		No report
43	Energy manager	2/5,3/14	3/21	No action
45	Capital Budget	3/12	3/12	\$8,362,746
46	Rescind Authority to Borrow	3/12	3/12	No action
47	Minuteman Tech	3/5	3/7	\$3,276,622 12-5
48	Town Celebrations	3/14	3/21	\$10,667
49	Committees & Commissions	3/14,19	3/19	\$16560
50	Miscellaneous	3/14	3/21	\$14,055
51	George St Sidewalk	2/21, 4/9	4/9	Favorable action \$0
52	School Facilities Working Group	4/4	4/4	Support in principle
53	Sewers	3/14	3/21	\$740,000
54	Water	3/14	3/21	\$1,000,000
55	Liberty Ride	3/12		No report - BoS
56	Pension Adjustments	2/21	2/21	Favorable action
57	Transfer Retiree Health Care Funds	2/21	3/14,21	\$465,223
58	Local Option Taxes	3/21	3/21	No report at this time
59	200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	2/21	3/7	\$6200 13-4
61	Town & School Budgets	2/5	3/12	No action
62	Harry Barber Program	3/7	3/7	\$7,500
63	Minuteman Senior Services	3/7	3/7	\$9,818 15-2
64	Revaluation	2/21	2/21	\$325,000
65	Tip Fee Stab Fund	3/21	3/21	\$680,000
66	Cemetery	3/21	3/21	\$190,000
67	Overlay Reserve Surplus	3/21	3/21	\$500,000
68	Stabilization Fund	3/21	3/21	TBD
69	Free Cash	3/21	3/21	\$954,736
72	W&S Health Insurance Offsets	2/5	3/21	No action

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/26	2/26	\$10,778	15-1
2	Board of Selectmen	2/26	2/26	\$343,723	
3	Town Manager	2/26	2/26	\$432,326	
4	Personnel	3/12	3/12	\$179,228	11-2
5	Comptroller	3/7	3/7	\$830,407	
6	Treasurer	3/5	3/5	\$552,840	13-0-1
7	Postage	3/5	3/5, 4/9	\$150,443	
8	Assessors	2/26	2/26	\$286,221	
9	Legal	2/26	3/21	\$433,359	
10	Town Clerk	2/26	2/26	\$221,957	
11	Registrar of Voters	2/26	2/26	\$61,787	15-1
12	Parking	3/5	3/5	\$90,766	13-0-1
13	Planning	2/26	2/26	\$208,782	
14	Redevelopment Board	2/26	2/26, 4/9	\$490,527	
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/28	2/28	\$22,296	
16	Public Works	3/21	3/21	\$6,655,982	
17a	Community Safety Admin	3/7	3/7	\$343,148	
17b	Police	3/7	3/7	\$5,289,617	
17c	Fire	3/19	3/19	\$4,968,561	
17d	Support	3/12	3/12	\$633,957	
18	Inspections	3/7	3/7	\$328,342	
19	Education	4/11	4/11	\$36,775,603	14-2-1
20	Library	2/26	2/28	\$1,811,090	
21a	Health & Human Services	3/14	3/21	\$253,391	
21b	Veterans	3/12	3/12	\$223,311	
21c	COA	3/21	3/21	\$135,783	
22	Retirement	2/28	2/28	\$6,706,719	
23	Insurance	2/28 3/21	3/21	\$15,009,885	
24	Street Lighting	3/21	3/21	\$409,000	
25	Reserve Fund	2/28	2/28	\$400,000	
W&S	Water & Sewer EF (balanced)	3/19	3/19	\$17,257,955	
Rec	Rev \$616,000, Exp \$615,637	3/21, 4/4	4/9	\$363	
Rnk	Rev \$468,812, Exp \$466,405	3/21, 4/4	4/9	\$2407	7-4-1
COA	Rev \$115,248, Exp \$102,777	3/21	3/21	\$12,471	
Youth	Rev \$325,000, Exp \$538,075	3/21	3/21	-\$213,075	