

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002  
FAIRBANK SENIOR CENTER  
7:30 PM

Present: Co-Chair Sheila Stewart, Co-Chair Jim Carlton, Mike Grosberg, Larry Rowe, Don Hutchinson, Tracy Billig, Bob Hurstak and Rebecca Corkin. Also present: Maureen Valente, Town Manager, and Kerry Speidel, Finance Director.

Item 1. Discussion & Possible Action on FY 2003 Budget and/ or Monied & Petition Articles.

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, advised the Committee that the Board of Selectmen approved an override election question of \$2,999,995. She stated that the Selectmen's override included an additional \$64,000 for K-8 busing, but other than that, was very similar to what the Committee had recommended. Valente asked if the Committee had any interest in supporting the Selectmen's total override, stating that one override would be easier for the voter to understand and would make the printing of the warrant easier.

The Committee asked questions regarding employee benefits, Chapter 70 revenue estimates, and ambulance fees. The Committee then discussed the pros and cons of reconsidering their original vote. Bob Hurstak stated that he was concerned that K-8 was "taking" from LS and the Town and felt that as a step in the right direction, K-8 should decline this extra money. Rebecca Corkin stated that she didn't feel that K-8 was understanding how their high budget increases were impact the Town. Mike Grosberg stated that he didn't feel strongly about reconsidering the original vote or about having a different total override number than the Selectmen. Don Hutchinson stated that he wanted to stick with the Committee's original vote. Larry Rowe stated that he didn't see that the Committee would be sending any additional message to K-8 by not recommending the additional \$64,000. Sheila Stewart stated that she would be supportive of the Selectmen's override number, but felt that it was necessary to meet with the school earlier in the process next year, for the Committee to set better guidelines, and to follow school spending throughout the year.

**VOTED: Move to support the Board of Selectmen total override in the amount of \$2,999,995. Motion made by Bob Hurstak and seconded by Larry Rowe. On vote, motion carries, 4 in favor, 3 opposed (Hurstak, Billig, Corkin), and 1 abstaining (Grosberg).**

The Committee next discussed warrant articles.

- a. Unpaid Bills: One unpaid bill in the amount of \$1,031.95, payable to Keyspan (Building Department). **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.****

- b.** FY 2003 Solid Waste Disposal Enterprise Fund Budget: The request is for a total budget of \$233,877, with \$19,759 set aside to cover employee benefits costs. Total enterprise receipts are expected to be \$271,733. **The Committee moved to recommend the budget as presented. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- c.** FY 2003 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget: The request under a No Override is for a total of \$390,390, with \$40,390 set aside to cover employee benefits costs. Under an Override, the request is for a total of \$432,277, with \$40,390 set aside to cover employee benefits costs. Total enterprise receipts are expected to be \$350,000 under either scenario. The General Fund will cover the fund deficit. **The Committee moved to recommend the Override and No Override budget requests as presented. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- d.** FY 2003 Capital Budget: The Capital Improvements Planning Committee has recommended approval of two-(2) items under the Override Budget in the amount of \$68,000. **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- e.** Chapter 90 Highway Funding: **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- f.** Wastewater Feasibility Study: **The Committee moved to report at Town Meeting. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- g.** Cutting Property: **The Committee moved to report at Town Meeting. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- h.** Real Estate Exemption: **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- i.** Accept Ch. 59, s. 5. cl. 17E & 41D- Optional COLA: **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- j.** Special Act-Application of ch. 59, s. 5, cl. 41A- Property Tax Deferrment: **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- k.** Special Act- Frost Farm Housing Fund: **The Committee moved to recommend approval. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- l.** Petition Article: Amend Bylaws, Art. III.2 – Town Report: **The Committee moved to recommend against. Vote 8 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Item 2: Other Items

No other items of business were presented.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Submitted by:

Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director