



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 02/04/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
2/4/08

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Dunn*	Phelps*	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Retirement Board members: John Bilafer, Chair, Joe Rosselli, Rich Greco, Administrator; Jeanne Leary, Gordon Jamieson

MINUTES of 1/28/08 accepted as printed. Unanimous.

GENERAL: Olsen reported that the snow budget has been exceeded by \$125k. A second, reorganized Warrant draft was distributed (Numbering below follows this draft). An agenda for meetings running through March was provided by Turkall. See info under Committee below.

CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD (CRB) ARTICLES

ART 39 INCREASE IN ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFITS: Bilafer, Rosselli & Greco explained this article. This article concerns employees who retire with a disability pension and die from that disability. Their children under 18, or if in college, under 22, would receive an annual benefit for each child. This figure is adjusted w/ a COLA each year by the State, is currently \$648. When accepted by Town Meeting in 2002 the benefit was \$312. The COLA aspect of the law was not clear at the time the Town Meeting voted, but the CRB awarded it anyway. Acceptance of this article, required by PERAC, would legalize that action. Greco requested to provide a comment for the FinCom report.
VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

ART 40 HOME RULE LEGISLATION TO EXTEND BENEFITS: Rosselli explained that Town employees who are qualified veterans (wartime service) and retire on a disability receive an annual benefit of \$15/ year of employment up to 20 years in addition to their pension from the pension fund. Rosselli's intention is that this legislation would allow their widows to receive the benefit. The article says their estate would receive the benefit. Greco estimates the cost at \$100k.
VOTED no action because the benefits should not be retroactive. Unanimous. Dunn to write comment for FinCom report.

ART 41 PENSION ADJUSTMENTS: This is the annual article authorizing COLAs that would maintain a retiree's pension at least 50% of the salary of the position from which he/she retired. Turkall to use last year's comment in the FinCom report.
VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

ART 42 TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPEB: Bilafer stated that the home rule legislation establishing a irrevocable trust to fund retiree health care costs requires that CRB manage the fund. The fund must be irrevocable to meet GASB standards and count against the OPEB liability on the Town's balance sheet. He believes that actuary work and the management of this fund is similar to management of the pension fund although, unlike pensions, the teachers would be covered. So far no employee money is involved except a third of the 15% payment that retirees make for health care. Bilafer would be willing to provide an annual report to the Town.
VOTED to table until the report that Foskett requested from Maher on the home rule legislation is available. Unanimous. Also the

committee wishes to hear the Treasurer's views on this matter.

ART 15 BYLAW AMENDMENT NOTICES OF MEETINGS & MINUTES: Leary explained her difficulty in finding out when Town boards and commissions plan to discuss matters affecting her neighborhood and what actions had been taken. The language would require much broader notification of affected residents than is current practice. Members expressed their concern with the practical difficulties of determining who might be affected, and the possibility of challenges to action on the basis of non-notification. Also members thought Leary's suggestion to use the assessor's records to determine who to notify would entail new expense. Tabled. Tosti to discuss w/ BoS.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg 2/6 Jamieson's articles: Services to Non-profits, Tip Fund Monies, Medicare Part D Reimbursement, SPED Budgets.

On 2/11 Treasurer on Pension Obligation Bonds, Borrowing for OPEB.

On 2/13 Assessor on Revaluation. On 2/20 TAC, On 2/25 Harrington Sidewalks School Routes.

On 2/27 Town Manager on Town Budgets.

On 3/3 Capital Planning Committee on Capital Budget.

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing.

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/6/08

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

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant			
27	7	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust			Foskett to study
20	14	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal			
21	15	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS
63	39	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	Extend Benefits	2/4	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment
62	41	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
65	42	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4	2/4	Tabled. Report from Maher, Treasurer hearing
66	43	Transfer OPEB Funds			ACRB
68	44	Borrowing for OPEB			
67	45	Pension Obligation Funds			
45	47	Positions reclassification			Phelps to present
43	48	Collective Bargaining			
44	49	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	Budgets			
47	52	Capital Budget			Hearing 3/3 8:00
55	55	Sewers			
56	56	Water			
48	57	Rescind authority to borrow			
48	57	Rescind Authority to Borrow			
50	58	Minuteman Tech			DeCoursey to schedule
51	59	Town Celebrations			Tw n Man
53	60	Committees & Commissions			hearing if last year approp not OK
52	62	Miscellaneous			Tw n Man
28	63	Town Water Bodies			Hearing in mid-March
70	64	Harry Barber Service Program			hearing if last year approp not OK
71	65	Revaluation			
69	66	Local Option Taxes			

72	67	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
58	68	Tip Fund Money Appropriation			
73	69	Cemetery			
74	70	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
75	71	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	Free Cash			
59	73	Medicare Part D Reimbursement			
57	75	Services to Non-Profits			
60	76	SPED			

VOTE SUMMARY -Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom				
2	Board of Selectmen				
3	Tow n Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Comptroller				
6	Treasurer				
7	Postage				
8	Assessors				
	Information Technology				
9	Legal				
10	Tow n Clerk				
11	Registrar of Voters				
12	Parking				
13	Planning				
14	Redevelopment Board				
15	Zoning Board of Appeals				
16	Public Works				
17a	Community Safety Admin				
17b	Police				
17c	Fire				
17d	Support				
18	Inspections				
19	Education				
20	Library				
21a	Health & Human Services				
21b	Veterans				
21c	COA				
22	Retirement				
23	Insurance				
24	Street Lighting				
25	Reserve Fund				
W&S					

Rnk					
COA					
Youth					