



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 03/17/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/17/08

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: None

MINUTES of 3/10 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

BUD 14 PLANNING: GenGov SubCom(Howard) asked for reconsideration of vote on 3/10 to correct an error. VOTED \$228,266. Unanimous.

BUD 7 TREASURER: Finance SubCom(Carman) recommended the budget as printed. He also explained the Treasurer's intent to consolidate 2 part time positions in order to fund a financial analyst at no net cost. VOTED \$577,693. 15-0-1.

BUD 8 POSTAGE: Finance SubCom(Carman) recommended several changes to the expenses as printed. VOTED: \$99,243. 15-0-1.

TREASURER'S TRUST FUNDS: Carman reported that these funds, totaling \$20m to \$25m, have lost about \$1m due to the mortgage crisis. This is less than the market as a whole. The Treasurer is considering whether the advice to buy the mortgage funds was legal. If not, he will attempt to recover some of the losses. A more immediate concern is a possible loss of interest income in FY 09 of \$600k, a change not reflected in the current 5 yr plan.

BUD 18a COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMIN: PubSafe SubCom(Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. The Manager will attempt to fund the Fire Chief's buyout from elsewhere in budget. VOTED \$373,299. Unanimous.

BUD 18b POLICE: PubSafe SubCom(Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. The new staffing will be 2 Capt, 8 LT, 9 Sgt, 46 Officers. Eight new hires are planned to replace 3 retirees. Lateral transfers are unlikely. Arlington will then have a police/resident ratio of 1.5 compared to 2.2 state wide. VOTED \$5,487,813. Unanimous.

BUD 18d SUPPORT: PubSafe SubCom(Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. The enhanced 911 system was used to justify the reclassification of dispatchers. VOTED \$684,043. Unanimous.

BUD 19 INSPECTIONS: PubSafe SubCom(Bayer) discussed the inspection work at Symmes. In the interest of transparency, the FinCom report will include the overtime & outsourced work at Symmes in the budget & show a \$35,000 offset from the Symmes urban renewal project. VOTED \$351,192. Unanimous.

BUD 20 EDUCATION: Ed SubCom(Ronan) recommended the budget as printed in the 5 yr plan. She reported that the School Committee quickly agreed on a fee increase to avoid teacher reduction & provided a copy of the motion that was voted. Fanning noted that the Superintendent is doing a good job. He has not yet responded to the FinCom's request for METCO financial info. VOTED: \$37,878,871. Unanimous.

Tosti yielded the chair to Foskett for the duration of the meeting.

YOUTH SERVICES EF: HumSer SubCon(Frandlemont) recommended the budget as revised in February. She noted that the grant reduction reflects this year's experience. The director is working to fund some of the social workers dropped by the schools w/ grants.

VOTED Expenses \$479,447, revenue \$192,832, from General Fund \$286,645. Unanimous.

ART 47 POBs: During an extended discussion, members expressed concern w/ the Town proposing to invest borrowed funds, especially considering lack of success stories elsewhere in MA. At the same time, members thought that enabling the Town to do this should conditions warrant, was a good idea if there were enough safety steps.

VOTED to request special legislation to allow Arlington to sell POBs 15-1 with constraints voted individually as follows. The amount borrowed not to exceed 20% of the value of the Pension Trust Funds, 9-7; approval required by a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting, 15-1; by the FinCom, 14-2; by the BoS, unanimous; by the Treasurer, unanimous.

And further that the Town Counsel be asked to draft a recommended vote for Town Meeting.

BUD 23 RETIREMENT: Finance SubCom(Dunn), using a handout, recommended a 4% budget increase which is net of CRB expenses. He noted that the insurance budget should show an offset of \$15,000 for health insurance reimbursement from the CRB.

VOTED \$6,951,511. Unanimous.

BUD 17 PUBLIC WORKS: PubWks SubCom(Olsen) requested reconsideration of the 2/11 vote to reflect the recent contract to outsource most of the cemetery maintenance. He furnished a handout.

VOTED: \$6,775,374. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE No mtg Wed. The Town Manager's scheduled appearance on 3/12 (OPEB Consultant, ARB school balance sheets) will be rescheduled..

No meeting 4/2, 4/7, 4/9

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$274,943.28

Peter B Howard 3/18/08 revised 3/24/08

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

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	# 2/20	# 3/5	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	17	17	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant	3/5		No report
27	7	19	19	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust	3/5	3/5	No action
20	14	26	26	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal	2/25		
21	15	27	27	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS
63	39	40	41	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	41	42	Extend Benefits	2/4 2/20	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment.
62	41	42	43	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
66	43	43	44	Transfer to OPEB Funds	2/27		ACRB
65	42	43	45	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4 3/5	3/5	No action
68	44	45	46	Borrowing for OPEB	2/11, 2/27		
67	45	46	47	Pension Obligation Funds	2/11, 2/27	3/17	15-1 w/ separate votes on constraints
45	47	48	49	Positions reclassification	2/27		Phelps to present
43	48	49	50	Collective Bargaining	2/27		
44	49	50	51	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	52	53	Budgets			
47	52	53	54	Capital Budget	3/3	3/5	8,538,884

		54	55	Thompson School	3/10	3/10	No action
	54	55	56	Swimming Pool	2/6	2/6	Favorable action \$0
55	55	56	57	Sewers			
56	56	57	58	Water			
48	57	58	59	Rescind authority to borrow	3/3	3/3	2724175
50	58	59	60	Minuteman Tech	3/5	3/5	3153412
51	59	60	61	Town Celebrations			TwN Man
53	60	61	62	Committees & Commissions	2/27		hearing if last year approp not OK
		62	63	TAC Appropriation	2/20	2/20, 3/10	Fav Action not to exceed 15k or No action if rollover ok
52	62	63	64	Miscellaneous	2/27	3/10	12729
28	63	64	65	Town Water Bodies	2/27,3/10	3/10	15000 & favorable action on home rule
70	64	65	66	Harry Barber Service Program		3/10	7500 max 13-1
69	66	66	67	Local Option Taxes		3/10	No report at this time.
72	67	67	68	Tip Fee Stab Fund		3/10	680000
58	68	68	69	Tip Fund Money Appropriation	2/6	2/6	No action
73	69	69	70	Cemetery		3/10	190000
74	70	70	71	Overlay Reserve Surplus		3/10	500000
75	71	71	72	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	72	73	Free Cash		3/10	1818787
59	73	73	74	Medicare Part D Reimbursement	2/6	2/6	No action 9-2
	74	74	75	CRB Report	2/6 2/11	2/6 2/11	Favorable Action Para 1 & 3 Request not require
57	75	75	76	Services to Non-Profits	2/6, 2/27	2/6	No report 9-1 Encourage followthrough
60	76	76	77	SPED	2/6	2/6	No action

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/11	2/11	10778	
2	Board of Selectmen	2/20	2/20	398558	
3	Town Manager	3/3	3/3	460104	
4	Personnel	3/3	3/3	190113	
5	Information Technology	2/27	2/27	525,813	
6	Comptroller	2/27	2/27	384,443	
7	Treasurer	3/17	3/17	577693	15-0-1
8	Postage	3/17	3/17	159382	15-0-1

9	Assessors	3/3	3/3	301270	
10	Legal	2/20	2/20	460047	
11	Town Clerk	3/3	3/3	234177	
12	Registrar of Voters	3/3			Tabled for more info
13	Parking	3/17	3/17	99243	15-0-1
14	Planning	3/10	3/17	228266	
15	Redevelopment Board	3/10	3/10	328223	
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/11	2/11	23311	
17	Public Works	2/11	3/17	6775374	
17a	Street Lights	2/20	2/20	418893	
18a	Community Safety Admin	3/17	3/17	373299	
18b	Police	3/17	3/17	5487813	
18c	Fire	3/10	3/10	5009209	9-5
18d	Support	3/17	3/17	684043	
19	Inspections	3/17	3/17	351192	
20	Education	2/25	3/17	37878871	
21	Library	2/20	2/20	1898988	
22a	Health & Human Services	3/10	3/10	276376	
22b	Veterans	3/10	3/10	236934	
22c	COA	3/10	3/10	143322	
23	Retirement	3/17	3/17	6951511	
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund	2/20	2/20	450000	
W&S EF					
Rec EF					
Rnk EF					
COA EF	Ex109543, Rev109593	3/10	3/10	0	
Youth EF	Ex479477, Rev192832	3/17	3/17	286645	