



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Meeting Minutes 03/24/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/24/08

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: Town Manager Brian Sullivan

MINUTES of 3/17 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

BUD 23 RETIREMENT: The vote on 3/17 exceeded the original request by about \$400k to continue the 4% annual increase rather than divert some of it to OPEB funding as suggested by the CRB.

ART 46 OPEB: Sullivan requested funds for a detailed study of retirement health care funding options. He provided a recommended vote and copies of relevant articles. The study will consider defined contributions rather than defined benefits for new hires, increased employee contributions, and benefits proportional to time served in Arlington. Sullivan hopes such a study will impress bond rating agencies. He noted that collective bargaining would not be required but that, should the Town join GIC, retirees would get a vote on such changes. Preliminary talks have been held with a qualified consultant.

VOTED \$50,000 11-1 for an OPEB study to be carried out under the direction of the Manager. Unanimous.

BUD 24 INSURANCE: Finance SubCom (McGaffigan) using a handout, made several changes to the original budget. The large increase from last year's budget reflect the actual experience. The health care trust fund will continue to operate with a 1 month reserve, about \$1.2m. The offsets from the enterprise funds are more accurate thanks to the review of individual records carried out by the Personnel Director. The Health Clerk is working with the employees & retirees to make sure claims are properly filled out & submitted promptly.

VOTED \$16,770,240. Unanimous

W&S EF: PubWks SubCom (Ferrara), using a handout, reviewed this budget. The debt shift to the RE tax will remain at the FY07 level. The handout contained several updates based on more recent information. At the current funding level, the piping system upgrade is on a 65 year cycle. The handout shows projected MWRA cost increases of more than 5% /year. Members expressed concern with retained earning increases combined with rate increases. Ferrara asked to collect some historical data.

VOTED \$14,867,576 Unanimous.

COA EF HumSer SubCom(Franclemont) provided detail requested 3/10.

REC EF HumSer SubCom(Franclemont), using a handout, reviewed this budget. The Director plans to spend about \$19k on a study of how best to serve the public demand for recreation services including the possibility of building a recreation center. He is in touch w/ people interested in a pool & those interested in a new rink.

VOTED \$689,060 Revenue, \$655,016 Expense after health insurance revision. Unanimous.

RINK EF: HumSer SubCom(Franclemont) recommended the budget as printed with 2 expense adjustments. She provided a 5 yr budget projection from the director. He believes that, even if the State cap were removed, the market would not support significant fee increases. Expected costs of rink renovations will require general fund subsidies unless fees increase by 30% by FY14. The chiller is installed & working.

VOTED \$623,073 Revenue \$521,391 Expense Unanimous.

YOUTH SER EF: VOTED to increase the health insurance expense from \$55,075 to \$62,022. Unanimous.

ART 26 SNOW REMOVAL: Olsen to provide corrected copy of Director's memo for FinCom Report.

ART 44 TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO OPEB FUND: Tosti read a recommended vote which appropriates FY09 funds similar to previous Town Meeting votes except all funds, including those from previous years, would be transferred to the OPEB fund established under home rule legislation and controlled by the CRB.

VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: A final copy of the warrant was provided. The Manager will be back on Wed w/ recommendations on the remaining articles. Tosti asked members to carefully review the drafts of the FinCom report to be sent by email.

No meeting 4/2, 4/7, 4/9. Wrapup mtg on 4/14.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$274,943.28

Peter B Howard 3/25/08

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		No report.
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	3/24	Favorable action.
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, 3/24	3/24	\$50,000 11-1
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	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	3/24	3/24	16770240	
25	Reserve Fund	2/20	2/20	450000	
W&S EF	Ex14867576 Rev14876640	3/24	3/24		
Rec EF	Ex 655,016 Rev 689,060	3/24	3/24		
Rnk EF	Ex 521391 Rev 623073	3/24	3/24		
COA EF	Ex109543, Rev109593	3/10	3/10	0	
Youth EF	Ex 486424, Rev192832	3/17	3/17	293592	