



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000
webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Finance Committee Minutes 02/14/05

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 2/14/04

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*		
Tosti	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Paul Bayer, Zoning Bylaw Review Committee members: Chris Loretta (Chair), Kevin McGann, Robert Fredieu; Vision 2020 CoChair Jane Howard; Vision 2020 Spy Pond Task Group: Bill Eykamp, Elizabeth Karpati; Vision 2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group Allen Reedy (Chair), Angela Olszewski, Gordon Jamieson; Traffic Advisory Committee Ed Starr

MINUTES of 1/31/05 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

BUDGET & REVENUE TASK FORCE: Foskett, who chaired the meeting, reviewed the B&RTF meeting held earlier in the evening. He provided copies of Charlie Lyons's letter with a suggested plan for dealing with the budget deficit. This letter shows how several communities, like Arlington, were especially hard hit by the drop in State Aid. Foskett also provided copies of two 5 yr plans, one w/ & one w/o an override. These plans were drawn up by the Manager. The plan w/o override assumes level service, and few changes from current funding & budgets. The annual deficit grows from \$4m in FY06 to \$11m in FY10. The plan w/ a \$6m override, gradual restoration of State aid and the other constraints suggested by Lyons has no deficits in the 5 yrs.

FY06 BUDGET: Foskett reviewed the application of the O'Neill formula to balance the budget using a handout prepared by Tosti. The department budgets would be reduced from the requested budgets by 7% overall and from the FY05 budgets by 2%.

ART 56 APPROPRIATION BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE: The committee requested \$16k to hire a consultant to review the zoning bylaw with emphasis on what limitations it places on density and how it might be legally strengthened. Approaches used in other towns will be considered. Planning Department too short handed to do the work. Committee has not yet met with Planning concerning this article.

ART 55 APPROPRIATION SPY POND WEED TREATMENT: Eykamp requested \$20k which added to \$15k left over from previous appropriations will cover the expected cost. He reviewed the pond's recent treatment history. Although effective, the treatment lasts for only 3 yrs. No permanent treatment is known. Flyers are distributed annually requesting residents to use low phosphate fertilizer. Eventually this item should be part of the DPW budget.

ART 33 COMMITTEE TO STUDY REVISING THE TOWN'S FISCAL ORGANIZATION: Reedy stated that the study carried out in 1999 (copies provided) suggested that an alternate organization based on appointing rather than electing fiscal leaders might have advantages. The alternate organization is used in other towns including Brookline where the our current manager worked for many years. Reedy emphasized that this article is not a criticism of the current treasurer. Rather it is intended to help the Town plan for the future. A lively Q&A session followed.

ART 53 APPROPRIATION TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Starr requested that the unspent balance

(about \$17k) of the committee's original \$50k appropriation be carried over to FY06. Using a handout, he explained how the funds have been spent and provided copies of some of the accident study results.

BUDGETS The General Government SubCom (Howard) presented the following budgets.

BUD 1 FINCOM: After some discussion the committee decided not to restore the \$50/member stipend reduction made several years ago. VOTED \$10,443 as printed. Unanimous.

BUD 3 MANAGER: VOTED \$362,708 as printed.

BUD 10 CLERK: Two corrections made in personal services. Printing budget reduced because FY06 is a one election year. VOTED \$211,728. Unanimous.

BUD 11 REGISTRAR: Non-financial typos corrected. VOTED \$58,287 as printed. Unanimous.

BUD 18 ZBA: Salary corrected. VOTED \$22,922. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg Wed 2/23/05.

Peter B Howard, Secretary, 2/15/05

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Library file, Town Manager, Town Web Site