



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 04/04/05

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 4/4/05

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: none

MINUTES of 3/30 approved as corrected. Unanimous

GENERAL: Chair hopes to finish articles today & cuts on Wed. Finish on 4/18 and, if necessary, 4/20. Possibility of drawing something from stabilization fund if override fails.

ART 32 REVOLVING FUND/CONCOM: A new revolving fund not needed since fees will now be appropriated in budget as an offset. This approach OK'ed by Maher & Lewis. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ART 40 TRASH FEE: Will discourage recycling. Thought to discourage voters from supporting override. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ART 41 PAYT PLAN: General discussion. In favor: encourage recycling, reduce DPW costs, more equitable way to pay for disposal, analogous to W&S bill. Opposed: Effect on override, concern w/ how funds would be used, considered to be a tax increase. VOTE to postpone to after override failed 4-10. VOTE to accept wording proposed by recycling committee failed 4-10. FinCom will recommend no action.

ART 45 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: None has requested a change except ConCom. The ConCom will be handed as part of the Planning Budget. VOTED \$12240

ART 47 CAPITAL BUDGET: Capital Planning Committee Chair (Foskett) explained, using a handout, a number of reductions recommended in the budget presented 3/28 to reach the 5% goal assuming the override fails. He also presented a partial update of the w/ override budget. A lengthy discussion of the Park Circle Fire Station followed.

In favor: The Fire Department considers this facility will save lives; They also say that an engine from Park Circle can sometimes reach other parts of town more quickly; The BOS will continue to support Park Circle; The Manager has promised to review the cost of the renovations of the other stations; This is a policy decision beyond the authority of Town Meeting.

Opposed: Not required by MMA study, Department's evidence does not show better response from Park Circle, Plans for new station double its original size; Cost estimate probably too low (because not updated), Department may be concerned more with job protection than level of service; Town Meeting is ultimate policy setting body.

VOTE to support budget failed 5-10. VOTE to support budget w/ Park Circle deleted passed unanimously. Foskett to prepare a recommended vote.

ART 38 FIRE STATION RENOVATION POSTPONEMENT: Data requested by proponents has been provided. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ART 39 FIRE STATION RENOVATION CAPITAL PLAN: Foskett stated that the capital plan could not be revised in the time available except for deletions. VOTED no action. 14-1. The report to encourage proceeding w/ the other 2 stations.

ART 48 RESCIND AUTHORITY TO BORROW: No unused authority is known to exist. Foskett to verify. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ART 52 RECLASIFICATION: Personnel SubCom (O'Neill) walked the mtg through a handout listing all proposed changes. All were approved by Personnel Director & backed by Personnel Board. VOTED to support the proposal as printed. Unanimous. Kneeland & O'Neill to have cost impact of each change even if in budget.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$257,500

COMMITTEE: No mtg week starting Sun 4/12. Mtgs 4/18, 4/20

Peter B Howard Secretary 4/5/05

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