



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Finance Committee Minutes 03-11-2002

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF MEETING  
 7:30 PM O'Neill room Community Safety Building  
 3/11/02 Rev 1

**ATTENDEES:**

Janowitz*	Feinleib*	Kocur	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette	
Tosti*	Foskett	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

\* Indicates present

**VISITORS:** Community Preservation Act Study Committee members Clarissa Rowe (Chair), Laura Wiener, Nathaniel Stevens; citizens Maria Hood, Johnweeney

MINUTES of 3/6/02 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

**TRANSFER:** Fanning reported that the sound meter disappeared from the back of a Noise Abatement Committee members car. He had borrowed the meter to take readings. No insurance coverage. Fanning to inquire what data had been gathered using the meter since it was purchased by the Town several years ago.

**ARTICLE 22 PROCUREMENT OF FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES:** Howard provided copies of a summary prepared by Marc Breslow explaining the background and recommended action. Breslow had volunteered to explain the issue to the FinCom if desired. In the ensuing discussion several members expressed support for the article. By a straw vote (9-3) the FinCom decided it could support the article w/o further info.

**ARTICLE 24 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT:** Rowe, using a one page handout provided to the FinCom in advance, stated that the CPA Study Committee recommends another year of study to develop a 5 yr plan in conjunction with the Redevelopment Board & the Capital Budget Committee. She also explained the notional plan in the handout and answered FinCom questions. The Board of Selectmen will hear this article next Monday. The FinCom does not plan to report on this article.

**GENERAL:** DeCoursey reported on a budget workshop organized by Barbara Goodman where he represented the FinCom. 30 to 40 people attended. He felt the audience response was positive. Tosti reviewed the Towns "rainy day" funds: Free Cash (\$5 million of which the FinCom will recommend half be applied to the FY 03 budgets as in previous years); Stabilization Fund (\$2.5 million and intended for catastrophes). He reminded the FinCom that these monies can be spent only once. If spent in FY03, for example, there would be a funding gap in FY04. Tosti suggested that before these funds are tapped, the budget deficit should be less than \$500,000.

**BUDGET 17a COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMIN:** The Public Safety Subcommittee (O'Neill, Simmons) reported on this and the following budgets. If the Fire & Police Directors are made Chiefs as proposed by Art 20, the admin setup will probably not change and this budget is unlikely to be affected. The Subcommittee will investigate the M Schedule merit increases in this budget.  
 VOTED: \$291,028 Unanimous.

**BUDGET 17b POLICE:** There are 2 vacancies and 1 expected retirement. There is a hiring freeze. The effect of layoffs on the federal grant under which 5 new positions were created is unknown. After some discussion of the recommended overtime increase, and the holiday pay increase, the FinCom voted to reduce the overtime budget by \$48k resulting in level funding this line item at \$77k. VOTED: \$4,856,628 Unanimous.

**BUDGET 17c FIRE:** Medical calls greatly outnumber fire calls. Arlington provides mutual assistance much more often than our neighbors. After some discussion, the FinCom decided to reduce the budget by an amount equal to the 2 vacant positions, about \$78k. VOTED \$4,757,069 Unanimous

**BUDGET 17d SUPPORT SERVICES:** A new position of lead dispatcher was recommended along with a large overtime increase. After some discussion, the FinCom decided to level fund the overtime but to leave the lead dispatcher in the budget. VOTED \$728,035 Unanimous.

**BUDGET 18b STREET LIGHTING:** This budget request was level funded. VOTED: \$422,500 Unanimous.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS:** The Ed Subcommittee provided an advance copy of the School Committee presentation. The Chair provided copies of the MMA's Budget Bulletin.

**RESERVE FUND BALANCE:** \$231,272

Peter B. Howard, Secretary

**Budget & Article Action Summary**

Bud #	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1	2/4	2/4	11257	Unanimous	19				
2					20				
3	2/20	2/20	308314	Unanimous	21				
4					22	3/11	3/11	informal	Support
5					24	2/11,3/12			No report
6					31				

