

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 1991



Present: M. Brown, J. Desrochers, K. Eagan, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, P. Helmreich, B. Kimball, C. MacQuown, R. Nugent, D. Ward

P. Helmreich informed Committee that he gave S. Lombard the Committee's working sheet which listed suggested budget recommendations, opinions, areas of concern, and ideas for further analysis by the Town Manager.

P. Helmreich noted that the Committee will receive the Town Manager's 2 1/2 budget on Monday, March 11, and his impact statement. The following Monday, the Finance Committee will receive the School Committee budget with an impact statement.

M. Splaine sent Committee clarification of telephone expenses noting that costs represent calls to colleges for students. All calls are logged.

P. Helmreich received a copy of a letter notifying the Town Manager that the boiler system is not covered by insurance. He also received two letters expressing concern regarding the staff cuts in the Inspection Department. P. Helmreich noted that the sheet the Committee received listing employees and salaries reflects next year's School Department salaries.

P. Helmreich noted that tonight's agenda is discussion of the warrant articles.

S. Lombard informed Committee that the Selectmen voted to approve all articles for Town Meeting. Concerning Article 2, Lombard said he hoped to have the Town Report by the end of March for distribution before the Town Meeting.

Discussion of warrant articles:

Article 5

S. Lombard will recommend passing this article.

Article 6

S. Lombard not recommending this article.

Article 7

Discussion followed regarding deleting Assistant Water and Sewer Superintendent from list of positions on this article. P. Helmreich noted that Town Meeting voted to delete Assistant Water and Sewer Superintendent, Water and Sewer Technician, and Engineering Technician.

Article 8

Union positions not included.

Article 9

Will have new budget sheets. S. Lombard noted that articles in Article 9 are level funded including unsettled contracts. Town must vote to raise a sum of money for contracts that are unsettled.

Articles 10, 11, and 12

S. Lombard noted that capital improvement items will be ready in two weeks. Capital Improvements Committee discussing priorities of what should and should not be funded. S. Lombard noted that some items will be reduced.

Articles 13, 14, 15

P. Helmreich noted that these articles will be discussed at the Wednesday night meeting.

Article 16

S. Lombard noted that this article reflects prior year's bills.

Articles 17 and 18

no discussion

Article 19

P. Helmreich noted that Norton's share of \$800,000 bond is \$12,200 next year. S. Lombard noted that he will not approve this article unless under dire emergency. He stated that he would like to hold any borrowing until June 1994 until two other bonds are paid. S. Lombard noted that he is not going to support any money articles in this warrant and that the Selectmen did not vote on articles only voted to bring before Town meeting.

Article 20

no discussion

Articles 21-27

S. Lombard noted that Town Meeting has to vote to fund the contracts and that money will be transferred out of Unfunded Raises Account to fund these contracts. Lombard noted that these are unsettled contracts and that if they are settled, will then be placed in Article 9. P. Helmreich's raised question as to what purpose they serve here. He stated that if these contracts are settled ahead of time they will be moved under Article 9, and if they are unsettled they won't be moved, so they don't need to be in here. S. Lombard agreed that these articles should appear in October not May warrants and need to be deleted out of the May warrants.

Article 28

P. Helmreich stated that Committee understands what it means to enact a new by-law regarding fees paid to the Town and what is involved. Discussion of by-law followed. P. Helmreich to recheck with Town counsel on what basis the initial opinion was, that once this by-law is in effect, the new person coming in has to abide by this by-law.

Articles 30 and 31
no discussionArticle 32

S. Lombard stated that this by-law will allow the Board of Selectmen to withhold licenses and permits because of delinquent taxes.

Article 33

S. Lombard -- going for an override.

Article 34

S. Lombard noted that this is a petition article by the tax payers and ratified by the Town Clerk.

Article 35

S. Lombard noted that this is a petition article also.

Articles 37, 38, 39

Planning Board to have public hearings on their draft warrant. The Committee will review after hearings.

P. Helmreich noted that Committee can defer to take action on the general articles and that the Committee will have to take action at some point recommending these articles.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.