

3/25

1

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 1992



PRESENT: M. Hackett, P. Helmreich, C. MacQuown, D. Summerfield, D. Ward, P. Zawasky.

Chair Hackett called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Chair Hackett reviewed the FinCom's packages which included the FinCom's letter to the Board of Selectmen, dated 3/18/92; the letter from Robin Glasser, Head Librarian at the Norton Public Library, the letter from SRPEDD; and the legislative bulletin passed along from Dr. Splaine.

The next item of business was to review the transfer request from the Communications Department. Present were Ms. Grainey and Mr. Baker. Chair Hackett reminded the Committee that the FinCom did receive a memo dated February 10 warning of a possible shortfall, and then again received a letter on March 9th detailing the request for \$12,000 for salaries.

Chair Hackett then turned the discussion over to the Communications Department. Ms. Grainey explained that the request is for salary for one person, 40 hours per week until January. Although the request is for \$12,000, she anticipates the actual amount needed may not exceed \$9,000. She will monitor the situation closely and keep the FinCom posted weekly.

Discussion then followed among the Communications Department and members of the FinCom. Ms. Grainey noted that when two full time positions were cut at Town Meeting last year, no funds were appropriated to fill the part time shift necessary to cover the hours. M. Hackett asked why this wasn't brought up at Town Meeting, and the reply was that they believed it would be a futile attempt. Ms. Grainey stated that the Town Manager was aware after Town Meeting that there may be a potential shortfall. The shortfall was not brought up when the budget was re-visited in October. The Centrex system was discussed, as was E-911. Also discussed was the possibility of decentralizing the Communications center - however,

3/25  
2

it would cost \$50-60,000 per installation. There is also a report on file with the Town Manager on the possible scenario of no Communications Center.

Chair Hackett thanked the members of the Communications Department for their presentation.

The next item of business was the comparison of the Town Manager's FY'93 final Budget to the FinCom's preliminary recommendations. Mr. Helmreich prepared this report and Chair Hackett thanked him for the excellent work presented.

Mr. Helmreich then went over the package and noted the FinCom recommended reductions amount to \$609,827; the Town Manager's reductions amount to \$614,534. Both the FinCom and the Town Manager's budgets meet the Town Government reduction figure. Although the bottom line of the FinCom and the Town Manager's budgets are very close, the particulars are different. The Town Manager's budget is based upon assumptions that the Overrides will pass; i.e., nothing is budgeted for unemployment.

There was further discussion on the differences, after which Chair Hackett stated that the Town Manager will be present at the next meeting so that we may work together.

At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Ward moved that the FinCom adjourn, seconded by Mr. Helmreich. In favor: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

