

**Minutes of the Finance and Advisory Board  
March 29, 2006**

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**Meeting Called to Order at: 6:05 pm**

**Location: Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room/ 3<sup>rd</sup> floor small meeting room**

**Members In Attendance:** Robin O'Malley, Lisa Burke, Phil Cannon, Jonathan Ayres, Reggie Tardif, Walter Clemons, Ruth Stewart

**Minutes Taken by:** Robin O'Malley

FinCom met to discuss proposed budget cuts for the Town and School budgets. All members had reviewed the budget prior to this meeting.

Planning Board, Conservation Commission, ZBA and the like charge fees and have the authority to set these fees so long as they aren't punitive. It was recommended by the FinCom that this fee structure be reviewed to see if these departments are charging enough and can they be self supportive. This can not be done for this budget but would like to review it before Fiscal Year 08's budget. Also, we should review all revenues to see if they can be increased.

The FinCom would like to consider increasing all budgets for fuel and heating by 20% then putting extra in the reserve fund for fuel and heating. We need to talk to the Town Administrator for further information.

Discussion arose concerning new positions in town government. The FinCom is taking the stance that most new positions should be removed from the budget.

Per MGL (Mass general law) the town is allowed to deficit spend for ice and snow removal. The FinCom recommends reducing the Highway Dept. snow/ice control expenses by \$46,000. Phil moved, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 6-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends reducing the Fire Dept. wages by \$100,000. Robin moved, Walter 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 6-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends that the Fire Department expenses be reduced by \$75,000. This will still give them an increase over last year. Lisa moved, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 6-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends that the Highway Department Wages be reduced by the new position of \$27,000. Robin moved, Walter 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 6-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends reducing the Council on Aging Wages by \$20,000. Robin moved, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends reducing the Council on Aging expenses by \$15,000. Robin moved, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

The FinCom discussed raises for non union members. Nothing was agreed upon.

The FinCom recommends the Park and Rec department wages be reduced by \$17,000 and their expenses be reduced by \$5,000. Lisa moved, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

The FinCom recommends the Planning department wages be reduced by \$5,000. Phil moved, Walter 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

**Recessed at 7:05 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 7:15 p.m.**

George Moker, school committee chair, explained that the school budget has proposed reductions of \$12,000 for busing, \$59,933 for preschool teacher and \$32,500 for assistant principal. These have not been voted on by the school committee. They want to do at least a \$297,150, this is for the increase costs due to enrollment.

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The FinCom presented to the audience present that we would like to start the budget process earlier, there should be a uniform form and that the entire town should be communicating better; for instance with the personnel board and the CIP committee.

There is currently a \$795,000 shortfall in the budget.

Reviewed Selectmen's Budget cuts:

The voted and approved the following:

ConCom wages \$7,000  
Fire Wages \$93,000  
Fire Expenses \$36,000  
Road maintenance \$19,000  
Park and Rec Wages \$6,260  
Park and Rec expenses \$1,595

The FinCom explained our recommendations are revised them as follows:

Con Com wages	\$ 7,000
Fire Wages	\$ 93,000
Fire Expenses	\$ 75,000
Snow/Ice	\$ 46,000
Highway Wages	\$ 27,000
Council on Aging, wages	\$ 20,000
Council on Aging, expenses	\$ 15,000
Park and Rec wages	\$ 17,000
Park and Rec expenses	\$ 5,000
Planning Wages	\$ 5,000
Total of town reductions	\$310,000

The FinCom explained that the Highway Department should not have any reduction in the road maintenance. Many roads are in deplorable condition. The Highway Department in continuously coming to the CIP for funding for major road projects, with some maintenance this should be somewhat alleviated.

The FinCom moved that the town reduce its expenses by \$310,000. Phil moved, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

The FinCom moved that the school department reduce its expenses by \$485,000. Lisa moved, Jon 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 7-0 in favor.

A reminder that the next meeting is tomorrow, Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn 8:55 pm  
Ruth moved, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Meeting adjourned