

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Meeting Minutes
Finance Committee Meeting
February 19, 2009
7:00 PM – Town Office Building

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Gary Mansfield. Members present: Chairman Gary Mansfield, Michael Petruzzo, Melissa Hopkins, Steve Olivier and James Hanlon. Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator joined the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Minutes

Mr. Mansfield called for any changes or corrections to the minutes of 4/2/08, 4/16/08, 4/22/08 and both the regular and executive session minutes of 11/12/08. Hearing none:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Olivier, seconded by Mr. Hanlon, it was:

VOTED: To approve the Meeting Minutes of 4/2/08, 4/16/08, 4/22/08 and both the regular and Executive Session minutes of 11/12/08.
Unanimous in favor

Update on Department Meetings

Each of the members gave a report on the meetings held with the various departments to assess the impact of the Governor's 9c cuts (\$99,233.) in the Town's FY09 budget and the impact of Level fund, 10% and 20% cuts in the FY 2010 budgets.

Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Hanlon met with Laurie Hunter, Principal and David Goodfellow, Chairman of the Local School Committee. Mrs. Hunter presented preliminary information on the effects of 10 and 20% cuts. Both reflect significant staff position losses. A general discussion occurred with both sides agreeing the meeting was beneficial in understanding the depth of the affects these cuts would have. Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Hanlon confirmed they would be attending future meetings.

Mr. Olivier and Mrs. Hopkins discussed a meeting they held with Louis Rodrigues, Interim Superintendent of Schools. A budget had not been developed, but discussions on seeking relief for the Towns were explored. Both members will be attending the Regional School Committee meetings to hear the budget discussions and offer their comments and thoughts.

Mr. Petruzzo met with the Police Chief Mark Sorel, Fire Chief Dan Hopkins, and Superintendent of Streets Christopher Peck. All three (3) Department budgets are small at roughly \$1million each and any savings would be minimal to the Town. However, cuts

would diminish the services they would be able to provide. The Town's Snow and Ice account is currently a deficit \$154,000. This is a major concern for year end.

Mr. Hanlon met with Council on Aging Director/Veterans Agent Marilyn Mansfield. There are over 1,800 seniors in Town. The COA is almost self-funded. Senior social program are paid for by the program participants and other services including equipment and supplies through fund raising and grants plus state reimbursements (through the cherry sheet into general government). Staffing is minimal with herself full time (4 hours/week are assigned for Veterans duties) and a 32 hr clerk. The majority of her work is in helping home bound seniors. Other than electricity and fuel, that is quite low, there is little to cut.

The total Veteran's budget is \$18,000 and is a mandated State program. Expenses may vary greatly dependent upon the number of veterans applying for help. Although charged to the Department's budget, the State reimburses the Town's general fund 75% of the previous year's expenses. The program must be funded, and if not, the State charges the Town 110% of the expenses to administer it for them.

Power Point

Mr. Mansfield suggested we prepare a power point presentation to use to explain the budget and options to the general public. Mr. Olivier suggested this include all options and not to limit ourselves to existing options. It was agreed to send to Mr. Mansfield bullet points and we will incorporate finalizing this at a future meeting.

Preliminary Budget Review

Mrs. Garbitt joined the meeting at 9:30 PM. She handed out the Budget Review Summary for the FY 2010 budget dated 2/19/09 and briefly discussed her notes. A short general discussion occurred with the net outcome we are possibly facing a \$2,000,000 shortfall for FY 2010. She is finalizing the detailed budget and it will be available to pick up at the Fire Department over the weekend.

Future Meetings

Mr. Mansfield reviewed the dates of future meetings. It was agreed to postpone Tuesday's meeting with the Freetown Finance Committee until after the Stimulus Bill's details are known, and hopefully the Regional School Committee will have their budget.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Mr. Petruzzo and seconded by Mr. Hanlon, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:48 PM
Unanimous in favor.