

**Finance Committee ~ Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, August 13, 2002  
Fairbank Senior Center  
7:30pm**

**Present:** Tracy Billig & Michael Grosberg, Co-Chairs, Marty Ragonas, Don Hutchinson, Bob Hurstak, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

**Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs**

Co-Chairs Tracy Billig and Michael Grosberg opened the meeting at 7:40pm. Tracy Billig informed the Committee that the town has formed a Citizen Advisory Committee that will be dealing with Route 20 issues. A liaison was needed to receive emails, and Tracy volunteered.

**Item 1: Approve minutes from July 15, 2002 meeting**

Don Hutchinson asked if the minutes should be as involved as they are. Kerry Speidel informed the committee that it is a matter of opinion and that she has just followed the same set-up as used in the past. Sheila Stewart said she finds it helpful in having the detailed minutes.

**VOTED: Move to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2002 meeting. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor and 0 opposed.**

**Item 2: Update on LSHS Construction Project**

Michael Grosberg informed the committee that about a month ago they were trying to make a decision on artificial turf. The price for this came in at \$6 to \$7 hundred thousand. The boosters are trying to raise the money themselves. They are currently deciding if bids should be taken and signed before the money is raised. Currently everything is on schedule and \$4.7 has been expended (around 7% of the total construction cost).

Don Hutchinson brought up the decision on the creation and use of parking lots in the Featherland area, and the issue of safety. Tracy Billig said this issue was discussed at one of the Selectmen's meeting, which are broadcast on the local cable channel.

**Item 3: Finalization of Letter to Department Heads**

Michael Grosberg informed the committee that the question came up as to who in the School is suppose to receive information from the Finance Committee. Tracy Billig replied that information should be sent to both the School Committee and Superintendent Bill Hurley. Sheila Stewart informed everyone that Superintendent Hurley usually presents the schools views and decisions, but that the School Committee has the final say.

Marty Ragonas informed the committee that the next meeting between the School Committee liaisons and Superintendent Hurley is scheduled for August 29.

**Item 4: Finalize Finance Committee Goals for FY03**

Finance Committee Goals

- Listen to Voters
- Communicate with town departments and schools
- Listen to town departments and schools
- Communicate with voters.

Larry Rowe would like the phrase “approving budgets” changed to “makes recommendations”. Bob Hurstak agreed since the committee “recommends on behalf of the voters”.

A discussion came up as to where the Goals should be posted. Sheila Stewart and Larry Rowe agreed that the goals did not need to be printed in the Town Crier, that they instead could be posted to the website.

Co-Chairs Michael Grosberg & Tracy Billig inform the committee that the changes will be made and then posted to the Town’s website.

**VOTED: Move to approve the goals of the Finance Committee. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, and 0 opposed.**

**Item 5: Update from liaisons on Town Departments**

Michael Grosberg & Tracy Billig informed the committee that they would be meeting with Board of Selectmen Chair Larry O'Brien at the end of August or in early September.

No other updates were reported.

**Item 6: Other business and follow up items**

- **Update on State Aid / Cherry Sheet revenue for FY03**

Kerry Speidel informed the committee that the State budget has been approved, and that the Town's Cherry Sheet estimates were lower than what was approved. She stated that the biggest difference was increased revenue for the school, particularly Chapter 70

Don Hutchinson asked if the stabilization fund was depleted. Kerry Speidel informed him that it wasn't, and Larry Rowe agreed.

- **Discuss K-8 offer for presentation on SPED and facilities tour**

The committee was informed that Rich Robinson, SPS School Committee Chair, volunteered to come to a meeting and explain the SPED program. The consensus of the committee was that this would be a valuable meeting. Marty Ragonese and Larry Rowe said they would ask him what the best date for him would be at their August meeting.

- **DPW facility progress**

No discussion was held since John Nikula (DPW liaison) was not able to attend the meeting

- **Other pertinent Town Business**

None

- **Necessary agenda items for next meeting**

The committee asked to contact the Co-Chairs if they came up any agenda items for the September meeting. Michael Grosberg stated he would like to work on the calendar at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted by: Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

