

Town of Lunenburg

Finance Committee:
Brian Laffond, Chairman
Marilyn Stokes, Vice-Chairman
John Male
Barbara Reynolds
Martha McDonald, Secretary
Mark Erickson
Mike Mackin



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LUNENBURG TOWN
CLERK OFFICE

Lunenburg Finance Committee
Minutes

April 28, 2011 DRAFT

B.P.C.
6/30/11

APPROVED
6/30/11
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Location: Town Hall
Present: Brian Laffond, Martha McDonald, Barbara Reynolds, Mike Mackin, Mark Erickson, Marilyn Stokes
Absent: John Male
Also Present: Kerry Speidel

- 1) Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 7:03 PM.
- 2) Public discussion – Michael Stokes, IT expert and Lunenburg resident, commented that town IT department has done a good job of setting up all the systems in town but there does not appear to be any follow-up to determine if equipment is being effectively used by trained town employees and metrics to evaluate efficiencies gained; only one teacher is trained in using smart board technology; IT purchases appear to be made with good intentions but question the effectiveness and return on town investment; also questioned full-day kindergarten and whether we are getting a good value for this investment given some data suggests full day kindergarten is not beneficial to some students over the long-term.
- 3) Committee Reports:
 - DPW – Park Division Supervisor resignation and employee on medical leave are creating personnel constraints.
 - Schools – gap is now \$324K and school is reducing expenses to cover.
- 4) Old Business – Council on Aging Revolving Fund for Van – HANDOUT: Ridership estimates
Doreen Noble, Director, Council on Aging and Deb Sealy, Finance Committee member for COA, discussed and answered questions related to using a revolving fund to cover operating expenses associated with a new van (value \$58K) we were awarded by the DOT Mobility Assistance Program; MART is looking to sponsor the Lunenburg-owned van and MART would cover the cost of insurance and maintenance checks; the town would have to cover the cost of gas and operator's salaries; the Director, COA, will have the authority to allow the van to be used for various functions, including by different town organizations; the town warrant includes a request for a revolving fund in the amount of \$5000; this fund stipulates no money is spent until funds are collected.
- 5) Review Warrant Articles – Special Town Meeting articles:
 - Article #2 – no request for use of Stabilization funds.
 - Article #3 – HANDOUT – additional expenses of \$31K for police/fire injured personnel and \$69K for snow and ice deficit would be covered by reserve fund of \$50K and under run of legal expenses of \$50K; ME recommends approval as outlined for \$100K transfer, MM seconds, all approved.

Annual Town Meeting articles:

- Article #8 – Quinn Bill – no funding from the state for FY2012; our contract clearly states town will pay our 50% share only after state pays their share; a case currently in litigation argues if you have accepted the Quinn Bill, you are liable for the entire amount and the state's portion represents a reimbursement (case is under appeal); our union is not interested in working with us most likely because their state representation has advised them against it; we are asking town meeting to rescind the Quinn Bill and replace with an educational fund equal to 50%; the state unreimbursed portion is equal to \$65K; ME recommends motion to approve, MS seconds, all in favor.
- Article #9 – Police contract – negotiations will not be complete.
- Article #11 – Administrative personnel contract – not finalized.
- Article #13 – Recycling Program Enterprise Fund.
- Article #14 – Sewer Enterprise Fund – questioned the need for clerical help for the Business Manager and the high amount of overtime.

- Article #15 – Trash and Recycling Program – will vote on multi-year contract; will recommend Casella.
 - Article #17 – pass over; cannot rescind within three years of adopting.
 - Article #18 – use of stabilization fund for unemployment costs of \$53,310; any unused FY2011 will close out to free cash and potentially go back in the Stabilization Fund; ME recommends approval of \$53K, MM seconds, all approved.
 - Article #20 – HANDOUT – FY2012 Budget – due to additional state aid funds the net available additional funds of \$134K will go to close the school gap; school will also receive additional \$171K in circuit breaker funds for special education; MS recommends approval as reflected in handout; all in favor.
- 6) Adjournment – ME made motion to adjourn at 10:14 PM and MS seconds, all in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Martha McDonald

Approved
6/30/11
B. P. 2/11