

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008

### Attendance:

Present: Allen McRae  
Dave Stevens  
Fred Faulkner  
Ken Adam  
Steve Venuti

Absent: Dick Montminy  
Susan McDowell

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM in Room 103, Shattuck Street Building

### Discussion re Council On Aging budget:

George Sanders presented the updated Council On Aging budget, which had been prepared with the assistance of Bonnie Holston. In order to maintain a level funding operating budget, \$4K in various operating expenses were reduced to offset the step increases for existing staff. Out of a total operating budget of \$69K, \$55K is salaries. For the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program, COA is requesting a \$4,500 increase to \$48,500, based on the assumption of a 10% increase in participation in 2009, as the general population ages.

George presented the committee with a proposed 2009 budget for the COA transportation van, co-operated with the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART). Although the budget presented is a level funding request, FinCom expressed concern that the salary costs are understated, due to the reclassification of contract workers to employee status, and the eligibility of one employee for full town benefits. This is inconsistent with the original intent of the MART arrangement.

### Discussion re Park & Recreation and Community Education budget:

Sharon Martel, Interim Director, discussed the status of the Park & Recreation and Community Education budget, which had not changed since previously presented. She reported that the search for a replacement for the Director is going well, with mid-March replacement anticipated. Steve Venuti voiced the FinCom's goal that this and similar departments could be self-sustaining through the revolving funds within the next few years. The only capital item continues to be replacement of the Long Lake septic system, which, by law, must be upgraded this year.

### Minutes of February 12, 2008:

Allen McRae moved, Ken Adam seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2008 Finance Committee Meeting.

VOTE: Approved by unanimous consent

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Room 103, Shattuck Street Building.

Motion to adjourn made by Allen McRae, seconded by Ken Adam.

VOTE: Approved by unanimous consent

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM