

# AMHERST FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of January 18, 2007

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marilyn Blaustein, Alice Carlozzi (Chair), Kay Moran, Douglas Slaughter and Andrew Steinberg.

## STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

John Musante, Finance Director/Treasurer; public.

## AGENDA

1. Financial news (Musante)
2. Review draft of the Committee's override report
3. Tentative hearing schedule
4. Members' reports
5. Miscellaneous

## COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

**1. Financial news.** Mr. Musante reported on Governor Patrick's speech at the recent MMA annual meeting in Boston. The Governor will probably recommend a relatively small increase in aid for FY 08, mostly in the form of Chapter 70 school aid. There are several proposals that could be helpful, for example, expanding the scope of the circuit breaker deduction from state income tax, allowing some local option taxes (restaurant tax?), giving municipalities the option of joining the state's GIC health insurance program. None of these would be expected to benefit the Town until FY 09, leaving us with our existing problem for FY 08.

**2. Review draft of override report.** The Committee and Mr. Musante made several suggestions to improve and provide more information in the report. The group decided to refer readers to documents and links in the FY 08 budget section of the Town website rather than include them as appendices. Some graphs will be amended and others produced. The report is to be completed on January 22.

**3. Hearing schedule.** Mr. Musante distributed copies of the Committee's tentative hearing schedule for FY 08 budgets.

**4. Members' reports.** None.

**5. Miscellaneous.** None.

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Alice Carlozzi, Acting Clerk