

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 30, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Band Room, Amherst Regional Middle School

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Morton (chair), Marilyn Blaustein, Alice Carlozzi, Kay Moran, Douglas Slaughter, Andy Steinberg,.

OTHERS PRESENT

John Musante (Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director); Charlie Scherpa, Chief of Police, Mike Kent, Amherst Police Dept.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Nuisance House Bylaw
2. Proposed Budget Amendments
3. Miscellaneous

COMMITTEE ACTION

VOTED 6-0 to recommend Nuisance House Bylaw

VOTED 6-0 to oppose amendments proposing either reductions or increases to the FY09 budget as voted by the FC.

DISCUSSION

Article 40 Nuisance House Bylaw. Kent explained that the bylaw evolved from discussions of a campus and community coalition. In developing this bylaw, the coalition reviewed similar bylaws in other communities. There are three components: 1) social hosting: persons hosting parties where alcoholic beverages are served are expected to take responsibility including reasonable steps to prevent loud or unruly parties and underage drinking; 2) Cost recovery: if police are called, a fine may be imposed to recover costs associated with providing law enforcement, fire or other response services and 3) Responsibility of landlords: Landlords will be obligated to begin the process of evicting tenants after the third violation of the nuisance bylaw. If passed, there will be a \$300 fine per offense, the maximum under Massachusetts General Law. This bylaw has been endorsed by the campus community coalition.

It is hoped that the bylaw will be a strategy to deter underage drinking and unruly behavior that requires law enforcement and consequently reduce the burden on the Police Department.

Proposed Budget Amendments. Musante informed the FC of upcoming amendments to be proposed by Town Meeting members, both increases and reductions in the municipal budget. The FC discussed the proposals and agreed that they were in opposition to these amendments. The committee voted to oppose amendments offered that would either increase or decrease the FY09 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Submitted by Marilyn Blaustein, acting clerk