

## **DRAFT: AMHERST FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Meeting of June 18, 2007

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Room of the Middle School.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marilyn Blaustein (7:24), Paul Bobrowski, Alice Carlozzi (Chair), Kay Moran, Brian Morton (Vice-Chair), Douglas Slaughter and Andrew Steinberg (7:26).

### STAFF AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

John Musante, Finance Director/Treasurer; David Ziomek, Conservation and Planning Director

### AGENDA

1. Vote recommendation for Article 31 (Free Cash)
2. Approve minutes of May 3, 14 and 31, 2007
3. Agenda for July 11, 2007 meeting

### COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND DISCUSSION

1. Article 31 (Free Cash). VOTED 5-0, 2 absent, to recommend appropriation of \$237,893. This amount equals the \$238,000 required to fully fund the Regional Schools assessment minus the unspent remainder of the \$100,000 reduction from the Finance Committee's recommended General Government budget.

Article 27 (North Amherst APR). Mr. Ziomek attended the meeting to further explain the motions to be made under this article, now that the various elements are final. The amount of money to be appropriated in Motion A is \$90,000, not the \$150,000 contemplated earlier. The amount of authorized borrowing in anticipation of a state grant in Motion B is \$360,000. Two parcels – one of them about 2.5 acres and the other about 1 acre, both zoned for light industry – are to be excluded from the APR area. The state APR board is to vote its approval on June 26. This property is very high on the Town's priority list of potential acquisitions. This property is not being used as part of the required compensation for removal of land on North East Street from APR status. Mr. Bobrowski questioned whether the smaller of the two excluded parcels had any potential light industrial use. The Committee agreed by consensus to retain its recommendation to approve the article.

2. Minutes. VOTED 5-0, 2 absent to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2007, meeting. VOTED 6-0, 1 absent, to approve with minor amendments the minutes of the May 14, 2007, meeting. VOTED 7-0 to approve with minor amendments the minutes of the May 31, 2007, meeting.

3. Agenda for July 11 meeting. Transfers from the FY 07 Reserve Fund must be completed. If all members are present, the Committee will elect officers for FY 08; Ms. Carlozzi stated there would be a different Chair. There were several suggestions for work on guidelines and process. Mr. Morton suggested a plan to proactively increase

reserves. Mr. Slaughter proposed work on a multi-year financial plan and engaging the Select Board in the process. Mr. Steinberg suggested that the Budget Coordinating Group hold summer meetings about the budget process. Mr. Musante suggested that the Committee work on planning the calendar and budget process and preparing to advise on a multi-year plan. Mr. Bobrowski suggested working on defining core values.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.      Approved 7/11/2007

Submitted by Alice Carlozzi, Acting Clerk