

**Minutes
Town of Lexington Appropriation Committee
April 26, 2010**

Place and time: Room 111, Town Office Building, 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Alan Levine (Chair), Glenn Parker (Vice-Chair), John Bartenstein (Vice-Chair and Secretary), Rick Eurich, Mollie Garberg, Susan McLeish, Eric Michelson, Joe Pato, Rob Addelson (*ex officio*, non-voting)

Also present: Micah Niemy, Charles Hornig, Jeff Crampton

The meeting preceded the eighth session of the annual town meeting. It was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Amendments to Current Year's Budget (Article 24). Micah Niemy made a brief presentation on proposed amendments to the current year's budget (FY2010), to be addressed in Article 24, as detailed in a supporting spreadsheet. The most significant change proposed was the appropriation of \$200,000 of the free cash balance certified as of July 1, 2009, and set aside for unanticipated needs in 2010, to partially fund the FY2010 snow and ice deficit of approximately \$700,000. (It is anticipated that the remaining snow and ice deficit will be funded by a combination of surpluses in the Public Works budget, reserve fund transfers, and/or transfers under the 3% rule.) Additional minor changes to the FY2010 budget involved the transfer of funds between personal services and expenses in the Community Services Department and the Human Services Department to fund temporary clerk and part-time nurse positions and the appropriation of \$23,703 of insurance proceeds to cover the cost of repairing one of the two boilers at the Cary Memorial Library (under state law, insurance proceeds in excess of \$20,000 must be formally appropriated). The Committee voted to recommend approval of the budget amendments proposed under Article 24 by a vote of 8-0.

2. Town Office Building Renovation (Article 8(1)). The Committee discussed the vote of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) on April 12 to fund only \$1,185,000 of the total \$1,825,000 cost for renovation of the Town Office Building with CPA funds rather than the \$1,500,000 previously voted on March 22. Rob Addelson explained that the Town could make "room" to borrow the \$640,000 in additional funds that would have to be supplied from the General Fund to finance the entire project by deferring the expenditure of funds previously appropriated for certain storm-water and wastewater system upgrade projects. Although certain members of the Committee expressed concern about the consequences of this "forced re-prioritizing" of previously approved storm-water and wastewater system projects, the Committee voted to reaffirm its support of Article 8(1), as revised, by a vote of 8-0.

3. Approval of First Supplemental Report to Town Meeting. The Committee voted to approve Supplement No. 1 to its Report to the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, containing three-year budget projections and a discussion of the assumptions underlying those projects, by a vote of 8-0.

April 26, 2010

4. **Possible Cotton Farm Acquisition (Article 9).** The Committee was given a brief update on the status of discussions regarding the possible acquisition of the Cotton Farm property located on Marrett Road, currently under consideration by the CPC. Rob Addelson advised that the owners had proposed to accept payment for the property under a three-year, interest-free installment arrangement that would be treated, in effect, as a private sale bond and obviate the need for issuance of a municipal bond. Alan Levine advised that the matter had been scheduled for consideration by the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 10, and that further discussion by the Committee would be scheduled if the CPC voted to advance this article.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bartenstein

Approved September 22, 2010