

November 13, 2007

Minutes
Town of Lexington Appropriation Committee
November 13, 2007

Place and time: Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m., with follow-up meeting in Room G-15

Members present: Alan Levine (Chair), Rod Cole (Vice-Chair), John Bartenstein (Secretary), Deborah Brown, Richard Eurich, Pam Hoffman, Mike Kennealy, Susan McLeish, Eric Michelson, Rob Addelson (ex officio, non-voting)

Budget Summit 2. The initial part of this meeting was held in conjunction with Budget-Collaboration-Financial Summit 2 and was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The agenda items were:

1. FY09 Revenue Projections
2. Special Education – Burlington Budget Model
3. Establish Date: Budget Collaboration-Summit 3

Please see the minutes of the Board of Selectmen at http://ci.lexington.ma.us/TownClerk/minutes/selectmen_minutes.htm (or in the Town Clerk's office) for details.

The summit meeting concluded at approximately 9:00 p.m., and the Committee then continued its meeting in Room G-15.

Minutes. Minutes of the meetings held on July 19, 2007 and October 30, 2007 were reviewed and approved with minor changes. AL exhorted the members to try to finish as many backlogged minutes as possible before serious work begins on the FY09 budget.

Reports on Other Committees, Meetings and Events. EM reported on the current status of applications under the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for project funding in FY09 and the meeting schedule of the CPA Committee.

Rob Addelson stopped in briefly to alert the Committee that there will likely be requests in the near future to: (a) approve a reserve fund transfer for the costs of labor counsel, which is expected to exceed the budget; and (b) approve an increase in the ceiling for the PEG Access revolving fund to cover work being undertaken at Kline Hall at Avalon Bay.

AL reminded members that there will be an event on November 19 to honor Phil Poignelli, who is stepping down as Chair of the Permanent Building Committee.

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MK, SM and PH reported briefly on a meeting they recently attended of the Association of Town Finance Committees. Discussion topics included new opportunities for municipalities to achieve savings by participating in the state's employee health insurance program (GIC). State officials who spoke at the meeting, including Secretary of Administration and Finance Leslie Kirwan, were not optimistic about the prospects for significant increases in state aid in the near term.

RE reported on the most recent School Committee and a quarterly budget report that was distributed at that meeting. AL will follow up with the School Committee about the distribution of that report to the AC in accordance with the resolution passed at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.

Miscellaneous. AL said that he would like to include among future topics for discussion and review: (a) the reserve policy for FY09 and the proposal to consider the Burlington Plan for budgeting out-district special education expenses; and (b) the issue of funding OPEB ("other post-employment benefit") costs.

MK would like to look further into the issue of savings that might be achieved by joining the GIC, although this may not be a viable option for the Town of Lexington.

The next meetings will be held on Monday, November 26; Wednesday, December 5; and Tuesday, December 18. AL does not plan to schedule any additional meetings before the end of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bartenstein

Approved December 5, 2007