

**Minutes of the Finance & Advisory Board
Town of Georgetown
March 21, 2007**

Location – Third Floor Meeting Room – Town Hall

Members in Attendance – Reggie Tardif – Chairman, Tim Ruh - Secretary, Mike Sweat, Jack L’Hommedieu, Robin O’Malley, Mark Hall, and Jim Lacey

Member Absent – Jon Ayres – Vice Chairman, Sandy Gerraughty

Guests –George Moker, Anne Donahue and Dave Bjork all on the School Committee, Matt Vincent – Selectmen, Patti White Lambright, Gail Korpusik, Karen Hammond, John Faucher all with the school department, Sandra Starratt and Susan Sault both with the GEA.

Minutes taken by Tim Ruh

Meeting called to Order at 7:05 PM by Reg Tardif.

Items Discussed:

1. First part of the meeting was held to discuss the proposed FY08 Budget for School Department. This was a follow-up meeting from the January 31, 2007 initial School Committee budget presentation to the FinCom. This was a joint meeting with the school committee with George Moker, Anne Donahue and Dave Bjork present. Questions and discussions items included:
 - A. The School Committee presented their answers to our questions from the first meeting. Discussions centered on the cost of utilities, Labor changes between the years and revolving accounts. For utilities, Jon Ayres worked with Steve Fortado and completed a schedule showing that if electricity is 15 cents per KWH and oil is budgeted @\$1.77 per gallon, then the Budget for Utilities could be lowered by \$54K. Tim asked George’s opinion on lowering the budget for items charged to the various revolving accounts so that those accounts would have a zero balance by the end of FY 08. The budget currently shows a projected favorable balance of \$64K in SPED and \$24K in school choice. George was not opposed to the idea but could not speak for the entire committee. Mr. Fortado stated that due to increased costs in SPED, the balance was not projected to be \$64K any longer. Tim asked if the technology overstatement of \$20K was still in the budget, and the response was that it still remains in the budget as of now. For the labor expense comparison from 2007 to 2008, Mr. Fortado prepared a detailed spreadsheet, by employee showing the 2007 and 2008 projected salaries by individual, and the % change between the years. We discussed the overall amount presented of 5.9% for all employees, and how that number compared to the 4.4% figure as stated previously. The School Committee answered our questions and left the meeting. Discussions with the salary changes continued. Jack asked if the town people have any approval authority over the pay changes. The FinCom went on to other topics until George Moker and Dave Bjork returned to address the Committee. George made an argument that he thought the process of discussing the teachers’ salaries after the School Committee had left the meeting was a breakdown in the good faith that was trying to be developed during

this budget process between the boards. A short discussion period ensued about the percentage increases from FY07 to FY08.

2. Minutes of the 1/31/07 meeting – Mike Sweat made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted. Mark Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0 with Mark and Jim abstaining.
3. Minutes of the 02/07/07 meeting – Mike Sweat made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted. Robin O’Malley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0 with Mark and Jim abstaining.
4. Minutes of the 02/13/07 meeting – Mike Sweat made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Robin O’Malley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0 with Jim abstaining.
5. Minutes of the 02/27/07 meeting – Mike Sweat made a motion to accept the minutes with changes noted. Robin O’Malley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0 with Jim abstaining.
6. Minutes of the 03/07/07 meeting – Mike Sweat made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Robin O’Malley seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.
7. Reggie had a request from a resident to define some of the financial terms used during our meetings and at the town meeting. Reggie defined Free Cash, Stabilization Fund, Reserve Fund, and Cherry Sheet.
8. The Committee discussed some of the draft warrant articles and listed some resources that may help us understand the articles better.
9. Bailey Lane Bridge Transfer request. Tim Ruh made a motion to transfer \$5,500 from the Reserve Fund to FY07 General Fund Budget, Line Item 11224 “Selectmen Expense” for funds needed for the modification of the now closed Bailey Lane Bridge so that it can be opened for the passage of emergency vehicles. Robin O’Malley seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with a vote of 0-6, with Mike Sweat abstaining.
10. Jack L’Hommedieu discussed Article 17 and 18 on the Town Warrant. He stated that he voted for the Strong Chief model but was unsure if that was best for the town.
11. Committee discussed the need for a possible meeting on 4/7. Confirmed meetings at present are 3/27, 3/29, 4/4, 4/5, and 4/10. A joint meeting with the Selectmen would be proposed for 3/29 to discuss their views on the various department budgets and on articles 16 & 22.
12. Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Ruh at 9:35 PM and seconded by Jim Lacey. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.