

Members Present: Ian Johnson, Chair, Judy Lucas, Cliff Watts, Ronn Moody, Jo Lown, John Arnold, Brigitte Casemyr, Carolyn Spring, (arrived 7:08 p.m.). Absent: None.

At 7:05 p.m. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the Committee.

Approval of minutes –Meeting No. 16, March 17, 2008, FY2008.

Approval of minutes was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

Liaison Updates

- Mr. Johnson restated Mr. Harrington's request for recommendations to fill the opening on the AFC.
- Mr. Johnson spoke with Leah Talbot, Town Accountant, and was given an updated recap sheet reflecting current figures. This recap does not include possible increases from union negotiations currently ongoing in the School Department and Fire Department. Ms. Talbot is still waiting for information on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Article. The borrowing approved at last ATM would result in a 30% increase in the sewer rates, and additional borrowing as a result of this year's Article would also have an impact but not 30% as had been stated at a previous meeting. Borrowing for these Articles will first impact rates in 2010. Ms. Talbot will also compile information on current steps for town employees. This information for School Department employees has been included in the School Department report.
- Mr. Johnson noted the Joint Statement of Inspector General Gregory W. Sullivan, Commissioner of Revenue Navjeet K. Bal, and Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey Nellhaus directing municipalities in the Assabet Regional School District to continue using balances as previously certified by the Department of Revenue in deliberations on the district's fiscal year 2009 budget.
- Ms. Lown reported that AFC committee members have been invited on a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant requested by Leigh Emery scheduled for 3/26/08 at 8 a.m. Mr. Moody, Ms. Casemyr, and possibly Mr. Arnold will attend. Ms. Lown will attend after 8:30 a.m.
- Ms. Lucas handed out copies of information from the School Committee budget meeting held 3/19/08. Budgets for the elementary schools, the High School, and Special Education were discussed. Armstrong School is requesting 1 additional ELL teacher, and increased hours for S & L teachers. This year the Department budget includes \$200/student for expenses. This is a new method of budgeting expenses and makes comparison to last year's budget difficult. Hastings Elementary is requesting a ½ time Reading teacher. The High School is requesting a 0.8 time Math teacher, 1 full-time Science teacher, and a 0.1 time Industrial Technology teacher. The Special Education budget increase is projected at 3.84% and includes an additional ½ time clerical position. The School Committee has decided not to continue the late bus for K-3 schools. The Kindergarten lottery generated much public comment from parents. The School Committee is expecting to make cuts to the Superintendent's budget request.
- Mr. Arnold reported the Government Study Committee has presented their revised recommendations for changes to the Town Charter to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Danis will include the recommended Articles on the Warrant, pending a vote by the Board of Selectmen. The Government Study Committee plans to make an effort to educate and inform townspeople of their

recommendations prior to ATM. They have proposed three Articles. Each can be voted independently.

Adjournment

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous (8 members present and in favor).