

**Meeting of the Finance Committee
February 11, 2004**

Attending: Todd Abbott, John Carter, Brenda Edgerly, Mark Rogers, Paul Verrell

Also Attending: Library representatives (Ruth Blake, Tom Cyr, Brigit McCallum, Jack Seery, Craig Tripp), Eric Herrk

Not Attending: Dave Fedrizzi, Denise Everes

A discussion of the existing salary system was first on the agenda for tonight. Since a system is already in place, the Selectmen cannot act on a new policy for wages until the old policy is rescinded. Therefore, the Finance Committee will not discuss any aspect of salary or pay for Departments at this meeting.

Brenda addressed agenda items, stating that she is in favor of the public attending any meetings of this committee but would strongly suggest that anyone who wishes to address the committee do so by making arrangements to be placed on the agenda.

The Library Trustees were invited to answer questions of the Finance Committee. Members of this board were present and explained the Library Fund. \$40,000.00 from sales of Lake Arrowhead properties was allocated by the town at the Town Meeting (Article 6) in March, 2000. These funds would be placed in a special account called the Municipal Library Building Fund. The "Friends" Account is separate from the Town allocated money. The Barbara Lord Account is also a separate line item.

Note: on the warrant for this year-- Under Revenues--last line -" These items should be applied to our Building Fund" to be removed. All revenues accounted for should be applied to the General Fund.

The increase in heating costs will reflect the additional hours that the Library will be open. Of course this is still calculated on the past heating costs. That is expected to reduce when the new boiler (steam heat) is installed. Thermostat is turned down at night and over the periods that the Library is not open to help conserve the heat.

Ruth's computer is the server for all 6 work stations in the library. There is an automatic hard drive back-up. There will be an off-site location to this back up system soon. The server is a web-hosting company in California.

The board members explained that the \$2000.00 requested for software renewal and maintenance satisfactorily.

An increase in the telephone budget will need to be made in light of the fact that the local phone company has just increased the cost of basic service.. This will result in an additional \$60.00 for telephone.

Brigit spoke to the requested amount of \$40,000.00 entered as an article on this year's warrant. Grant and funding agencies frequently require matching amounts to be established from the recipient before agencies allocate funds. This would be our seed money.

There was a question about the most current draft of this year's warrant. The latest one received by the Finance Committee is dated 1-7-04. The request from the Library does not appear on this copy even though they submitted it before the deadline of January 25. It is hoped that the article will appear on the warrant.

The Road Commissioner and Transfer Station Director will meet with the Finance Committee on Wednesday, February 18, to discuss their respective budget requests.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM..

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Carter, Secretary