

Finance Committee

March 16, 2005

(Rescheduled after weather postponed the Finance meeting originally scheduled for March 9th)

Attending: Todd Abbott, John Carter, Duane Fay, Rebekah Higgins, Cindy Moore

Not Attending: Brenda Edgerly, David Fedrizz:

Also Attending: Nancy Brandt, Bob Fay, Doug Foglio, Robert Gobeil, Willis Lorc

Todd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.. Robert Gobeil, representing The Old Home Days Committee explained that the committee is always running a year ahead due to the time of the year the activities run. Monies from the previous year are needed to fund a program which takes place in the next fiscal year. There is a large pool of revenue collected over the years under the heading of Old Home Days. Discussion covering the location, the cost of booth rental, paid ads took place. The fireworks are the decided draw for most of the attendees. Another location cannot be considered due to the parking issue and the need to use the high school field for the fireworks. Again, it is not possible to use the field area for vendor space because of the water sprinkler heads that are crushed with vehicle and foot traffic. Vendors still need to locate on the tarred areas. Price for booth rental is about \$15.00 and \$50.00 for food concessions. This year no vendors will be able to access electrical power from the school. Any concession needing electricity will need to supply their own generator.

The Fire Department submitted an updated budget request totaling \$436,047.64. The finance Committee indicated to the Selectmen attending that the subject of salaries were never questioned or were ever under consideration to be reduced. However it was proposed that every department needed to try to trim its budget request in the light of unknown factors of the school and county budgets which are sure to be significantly higher. Mr. Lord indicated that the county budget will increase by approximately 9%. The air boat has been received by the Fire Department and training classes have started. The cost of the boat and additional related equipment has been covered by a grant received from the state. The service which Frank Birkemose has provided as Fire Chief to this department and the town was commended. A new Chief will be sought. The practice of billing insurance companies for responding to traffic accidents can be researched. This is done successfully in other towns. Salaries for the Fire Department were increased by \$15,000.00 at a workshop held on March 15th.

Article 22--The Transfer Station . Information is still unavailable for a recommendation from this committee regarding this article. Pay Per Bag was discussed. Details regarding purchase of the bags, cost of the bags, locations available for distribution of the bags and

the function of trash hauling companies and equitable charges are currently under consideration. The date of implementation of this program is not clear, however, this summer is certainly being considered.

Roads are currently being measured.

The Snowplowing contract has been signed.

There will be a meeting with the Selectmen on March 30. The next Finance Committee meeting will be March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Carter, Secretary