

**Finance Committee  
Workshop with Selectmen  
12/5/06**

Workshop Started at 6:00 PM.

Cindy indicated that budgets submitted are line item budgets.

Nancy indicated that the town should have gross budgeting not line item budgeting.

John indicated that line items are voted on by the taxpayers. For example, if the general budget goes over, you can't just take money from another account to pay the overage unless you get approval from the taxpayers.

Finance Committee - Line items budgets amounts should be getting a baseline from the previous years' budget.

Cindy recommended having department heads meet with Nancy quarterly to talk about/justify budget so the department heads will take responsibility of their budgets.

Janice indicated that managing line item budgets needs to be managed like a money making business.

Nancy indicated that the charter allows Selectmen to go over accounts the last 3 months of the year and move money from department to department.

Janice brought to the Selectmens' attention about tiny differences and permanent differences in budgets and recommended to have departments classify differences quarterly. John asked if this would be done in a televised or non-televised meeting. Janice indicated that it could be a private meeting except when there were very large permanent differences which would indicate a permanent problem.

Nancy indicated that most of the department heads do manage their own budgets or they will see Nancy to compare or correct.

Finance Committee - Boundaries and accountabilities need to be set for the budgets. Department heads need a guideline to work within their budgets and not get more money to cover expenses.

Cindy indicated that department heads should get used to reporting to Nancy quarterly.

Finance Committee - Budgets should not be balanced from other accounts at the end of the year.

Cindy acknowledged that this would be a tool for Nancy and department heads to

manage their budgets.

Workshop ended at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted;  
Nancy Roberge,  
Committee Secretary