

Finance and Budget Committee Minutes

March 1, 2007 8:00 A.M. Room 312

Councilors in attendance: Cantor, Slifka, Verrengia, Carpenter

Other Business - Facilities Services

The Committee was presented with a model for providing the management of facilities services in-house rather than contracting out. The model would add three positions to the Board of Education and the Town. The cost impact is estimated to be a savings of about \$200,000. Detailed discussions are still planned with the Board of Education on the plan specifics before bringing it back to the Council for action. The RFP that has been sent will be discontinued.

Governor's Budget Update

A memo (attached) outlining the impact of the elimination of motor vehicle property taxes was distributed and discussed. While the Town would be kept whole during the five year phase-in, it is uncertain as to what the impact would be after the phase-in. Revenue would then be tied to a percentage of the casino revenue that the State receives.

In other areas that Town would receive an additional \$4,366,010 next year from the ECS grant. This would be offset by reductions in State Pilot program (-\$109,688), Pequot grant (-\$35,392), Town Aid Roads (-\$172,502), Energy Relief grant (-\$492,617), and in Public School transportation reimbursement (-\$80,643).

Other areas reduced, but without knowing the specific amounts to our allocations, include, Special education excess cost grants, and a reduction in school construction reimbursements.

MDC Update

The MDC has prepared a financial analysis of the Clean Water Surcharge options and is conducting meetings on it with member towns. The administration will continue to monitor the development of this and the legislative acts that will be required to implement.

The MDC is also preparing a program in response to the Homeland Security Act which will require them to take some action to protect the reservoirs. They are coming in to explain the requirement and talk about their initial plan for complying.

Leisure Services Financial Report

The report was reviewed in general overall terms and will be more fully discussed at the next meeting.