

Finance and Budget Committee Minutes

August 23, 2007 8:00 A.M. Room 312

Councilors in attendance: Cantor, Carpenter, Verrengia

MDC Legislative Update

Mr. Robert Weimar and Attorney Brendan Fox, from MDC, were present to explain the MDC's options for funding the Clean Water project now that the legislation allowing for a user fee was not adopted by the State legislature. They are looking at the possibility of adopting a user fee by ordinance and are having it checked on legally and by Bond Counsel and DEP. They expressed that it would be a good idea for the member towns to talk to their MDC Commissioners about this issue and also make the Mayors, Town Managers, and Finance Directors knowledgeable about the impact of this issue on each town. A copy of the correspondence from MDC to the Towns and the Town Manager's response is attached.

Year End Financials

The projected year-end results were reviewed (attached). Consideration was given to funding the purchase of replacement vehicles and equipment and some capital projects with the projected surplus. The Committee asked for more specific details of what is being considered and what would be replaced.

CDBG Carryover Resolution

The Committee reviewed and discussed the appropriation of prior year CDBG funds. The proposed allocation is \$434,815.15 to Housing Rehabilitation, \$325,000 to the Library renovation for handicapped accessibility work, and \$150,000 for rodent control/code enforcement on an urgent need basis. The Library project is a previously approved funding source for the construction project and this implements the previous Council action by appropriating the funds. The rodent control program is new and is eligible given its urgent need and lack of other funding sources.

South Garage Financials

The purchase of the south garage in Blue Back Square has been concluded. The financial summary of the transaction was reviewed. The original contractor's budget for the garage was \$15,797,990. The independent audit showed actual expenses thru May 31st to be 11,447,436. The purchase price which was fixed by the Master Agreement was \$10,810,453.

Other Business

A resolution setting the Town Clerk's salary at \$69,000 for the new term of office which begins January 2, 2008 was approved by the Committee.