

gphom ATT

From: "R. Evans" <revans@world.std.com>
To: <fincom@acton-ma.gov>
Cc: <awchang@ma.ultranet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 7:24 PM
Subject: Memo

Finance Committee Members

At next Tuesday's meeting I will propose that we vote to send this memo to the Selectmen. Bob

To: The Board of Selectmen,
From: The Finance Committee
January 27, 2004

Subject: Dispatch and the FY05 Municipal Budget

There have been employee cutbacks and non-replaced capital items in the municipal and school budgets in FY04. We expect the same in FY05 and probably again in FY06. Consequently the Finance Committee believes that any proposal to add new employees in FY05 must meet an extremely high standard of need. In addition said employees should not be individuals whose positions would be cut from the FY06 budget if the voters do not approve an anticipated override.

In our view the new employee in the Finance office meets these standards.

The Finance Committee believes the proposal to add four dispatchers at a cost of some \$155,000 in FY05 and a comparable amount in FY06 does not meet these standards. No convincing case was presented to demonstrate a compelling need for these employees in order to assure the safety of the citizens of Acton.

We recognize that one of the driving forces behind the new Public Safety Facility was the institution of civilian-based joint dispatch. We believe that in these difficult financial times individuals of good will can achieve joint dispatch with a mixed labor force, on an interim basis, with a gradual conversion to all civilian dispatchers.

Consequently we believe that the money currently in the budget for these positions should be re-allocated to the replacement of needed capital items.