

Minutes – Acton Finance Committee
Date March 4, 2008
Town Hall Room 204

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 7:30 pm on March 4, 2008 to review various matters.

Members present for the meeting: Steve Noone (SN), Pat Clifford (PC), Herman Kabakoff (HK), Allen Nitschelm (AN), Kent Sharp (KS), and Pat Easterly (left early) (PE), Bill Mullin (BM), Mary Ann Ashton (MA), Bob Evans (BE).

Others Present: JoAnn Berry, Sharon McManus, Lauren Rosensweig (LR), Dore' Hunter (DH), Steve Ledoux (SL), John Murray (JM).

BM moved to approve the Minutes of the FinCom meeting held on February 26. AN seconded. Passed unanimously.

BE reported that the Health Insurance (HI) rates are decreasing in the aggregate. (Master Health Plus is increasing all others are decreasing or no change). We should have a favorable balance in the Trust of \$300K next July. There were no reinsurance claims this year. The Trust has a \$3MM balance currently. This balance should be \$4MM at the end of the year. The rates should not go up too much next year. We should not spend the surplus because we do not know what may happen in the future. BM asked how this compares to the ALG plan. BE said that the town and the schools combined should save approximately \$275K. SN asked how these rates compare to state HI rates. BE observed that the state rates are going up, ours are going down. The Trustees do not recommend converting to the state HI system. SN asked why claims are decreasing. BE said that we are just healthier. Retirements are replaced with younger people.

Town Budget Hearing – The Town Manager (SL) gave a presentation regarding the Town budget. A copy of his slides is attached to these minutes for reference. In addition a letter from the Police Chief to the Town Manager was distributed which explained the Chief's request for adding an FTE for a Deputy Police Chief. This letter is also attached for reference. The Town Manager's discussion highlighted that the request for the compensation reserve (\$100K) would allow rate adjustments when necessary and provides the capability to reward good performers. The request for salary parity money is to allow the Town the ability to replace retirements. It is hard to attract people to Town positions at the current salary levels. This proposal will also help with employee retention. Finally the point was made that low salaries may lead to unionization. DH stated that the current Ladder Truck is not repairable and that is why there is a request to replace it. SN asked what would be cut if the \$227K from casino licenses does not come. DH said that he did not know at this time. SN pointed out that there are just fewer than 200 FTE's in the Town. Salaries are up 5% and benefits are up 9%. He asked if there are any plans to hold the line regarding these costs. SL pointed out that all union contracts are to be negotiated at the end of this fiscal year. SN opined that we are not under taxed

and we must deal with personnel costs. KS said that we still have \$300K in the budget for salary parity. The study done regarding the need for this adjustment has flaws. The weighting tends to favor the larger communities we are compared with. KS said spending \$300K based upon this study is not a good idea. DH indicated that in his opinion we should do even wrong things to discourage unionization. LR said that KS should meet with JM to discuss his analysis of the study. PE is troubled by the \$100K reserve. It seems too high. (PE left the meeting after this comment) BE observed that there are currently no formal bids associated with the Ladder Truck or the Pumper Truck. He asked if they would be available at Town Meeting (TM). DH said yes. AN asked what the value of a refurbished Ladder Truck would be. DH indicated that he thought it would be approximately \$10K. AN asked if a used Ladder Truck is available for us to purchase. DH said that one is not readily available. AN asked if it made sense to purchase a used Pumper Truck. DH said that we have never done that. BE indicated that he thought that it would cost \$100K for a 10 year old truck. BM observed that the Ambulance Fund currently has a \$900K balance. He asked if we could purchase the Ladder Truck and the Pumper Truck from this fund. DH said that he would look into this. BM commented on the Parity question. He asked how we reward people if they are at parity. SL answered that they would be above parity. MA asked if the budget will be lowered based upon the savings from HI premiums. MA also asked regarding the BoS position associated with the request for the Community Services additional FTE request. DH said the BoS needs more information. The request is currently not in the budget. MA asked how many open positions there are currently in Town Hall. The answer was 3 (HR Director, Building Commissioner, and one in Finance Department). Plus there could be other less visible positions. AN opined that we should have this meeting sooner in the process. We should be looking very closely at sustainability. There is not enough identified sustainable revenue to cover the requested budget increases. AN does not support the Senior Center request. BM observed that this budget has five new FTEs and expanded Library hours and these result in a 5% increase. AN objects to voting on this budget at the next meeting as there will not be enough time to ask and receive answers to questions resulting from this meeting. PC expects to make decisions next week. She pointed out that many people have been writing us very concerned with the level of taxation. We have another constituency to consider and we will do so. BM pointed out that we have more information now than we had last year at this time.

MA gave a school budget update. There are no substantial changes in the Region budget based upon the School Committee's (SC) discussion at their Feb 7th meeting. PC asked if any cuts were discussed. MA said no. They are carrying \$578K in new personnel (HS teacher, ½ team at the Jr. High, Technology). In total 14 new FTE's. BM asked what the impact of no casino revenue would be. PC indicated that the question was not answered.

AN reported regarding the Feb 28 local SC meeting. There will be two IT platforms. In his opinion, this will cost more. AN indicated that there is no coordination with the Town regarding technical IT support. The SC added 6 FTE's after budget last year. This year's budget is increased by 8%. (Three teachers added and Kindergarten class size is now 18)

PC passed out a new ALG Plan. A copy of this plan is attached to these minutes for reference. This new plan indicates that we can provide services and keep reserves.

AN asked why this plan is sustainable. MA observed that we are not adding many positions. AN observed that we are reducing Free Cash and the NESWC fund. He recommends that we give the SC a bottom line number and not tell them specifically what to cut. SN pointed out that the school budgets are reduced by \$380K and the Town's increased accordingly.

BM said that three year plans do not come true. He thinks that we can still cut taxes this year. He advocates that we eliminate the \$100K compensation reserve and fund fire trucks from the Ambulance Fund.

AN recommended that we support the transfer of \$380K from the school budget to the Town. We should not presume to tell the elected officials exactly where to cut.

MA moved: Ask to School Committee to reduce their budget \$350K - \$400K consistent with the draft plan.

AN seconded.

BE pointed out that we still can not support specific spending.

KS feels sorry for the citizens. This is complicated. He's not sure he understands the real impact.

SN thinks that both budgets need to be cut.

Vote:

BM – no

KS – no

HK – Abstain

All others (5) – Yes

PE - absent

Motion Passed

KS moved to adjourn at 10:40PM.

SN Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Herman Kabakoff
Clerk

Acton Police Department

InterDepartmental Memo

From: Frank J. Widmayer, Chief of Police

Date: February 27, 2008

To: Steve Ledoux, Town Manager

Subj: FinCom information

I have compiled some information to address specifically the questions you forwarded from Allen Nitschelm and in general some other information that was asked for by the Finance Committee and Selectman Dore' Hunter.

Deputy Police Chief:

I have added the towns suggested by Allen and done the comparisons as he requested. Some other towns were added either because I am familiar with their operations or we have used them in the past for other studies. Each *chart* is explained by name below.

Crime rate per 10k population shows the various towns and where Acton fits in comparison. As you can see the Acton crime rate is three times that of Westford and in fact is much higher than many other towns on the list. The Acton rate is near average only because some of the larger towns are very much higher and thus move us lower on the list.

Officers per Thousand Population shows how many officers are authorized on each department based on population. The average for the entire northeastern United States is 2.0 officers per thousand population within our population group. As you can see the average for our comparison towns is slightly lower. Even though Acton appears close to the others there is a significant difference between the departments, e.g. Westford has seven more officers than Acton with almost the exact same population. If Acton were at the 2.0 average we would have nine more officers than we are currently authorized.

911 Calls per 10k Population shows the rate of 911 calls made and Acton is very high on the list. Keep in mind that these are only the emergency calls that people make to 911. There are many that still come in on old emergency lines when callers are not sure if they really have an emergency. We have to respond to any 911 call even it is abandoned or a hang-up with two officers since we do not have any information on the incident to which officers are responding.

Rank between Sergeant and Chief divided by 10k population shows the rate of superior officers there are in each department rated by population. In almost all departments there are sergeants who are basically working foremen and direct supervisors of the various

Pg 1 of 8

Acton Police Department

InterDepartmental Memo

patrolman ranked officers. Therefore what I did was count any superior officer other than chief or sergeant, total them and then divide by the 10k population factor. As you can see the average is slightly above 1.5 and that means if Acton were average there would be slightly more than three ranking officers. Currently there are two, both lieutenants and the deputy chief proposal would bring us up to three and therefore meet the average.

There may be a question regarding why I decided on deputy chief as opposed to Captain, Commander or Lieutenant. The reason is that after discussion with town labor counsel we decided it would be most beneficial to have an exempt salary, non-union and non-civil service position. The best way to accomplish that was by creating a deputy chief position. In fact the current request for \$65k not including benefits and the inherent inability to work overtime and paid outside details would be difficult to staff within a union environment.

New Police Officer:

As I have stated for many years we are understaffed. That is the primary reason why we need so much overtime funding to operate properly. At the budget meeting Selectman Knibbe asked if we could cut the overtime funding if we hired the new officer and my response was "no, it would just be a drop in the bucket." One problem is that we lose a large number of employees to other departments. I have lost 17 officers and dispatchers in the past few years and it is difficult to keep up with the changes. In regard to police officers the department tends to run short by usually four to six officers quite often due to various reasons including: injury leave, long term illness, pregnancy, military service overseas and officers who leave for other departments. That means I am missing 12 to 18 percent of my police officers on a regular basis. Right now the department is short by three officers or 9 percent. One officer is out on injury leave and two others are in the academy for training for 20 more weeks.

I am requesting an additional officer in order to fill holes in the schedule. Currently we average three patrol officers per shift, not including the sergeant. There is no officer assigned to duty in the building on any shift except if they are called back by request of a dispatcher. The town is divided in four sections we call precincts, designated as West, South, Central and North. On most shifts Central and North are covered by one cruiser. This is the main problem I am attempting to address. When that situation is in effect the entire half of town north of Route 2 is covered by one patrol officer. The north side of town is growing rapidly and we need to devote more patrol time there. Basically the situation is that we run with four patrol officers 8 hours out of every day (5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.) and the other 16 hours are staffed with three patrol officers. I'm trying to cover more of those shifts with four patrol officers. This is helpful not only when responding to calls that require two officers but for the many motor vehicle stops that officers make on a constant basis resulting in the need of another cruiser for backup.

Pg 2 of 8

Acton Police Department

InterDepartmental Memo

In an emergency that requires extra officers, we call them in. That takes time. Selectman Hunter asked for some examples of such instances. The many recent snowstorms cause numerous vehicle crashes that quickly overwhelm our ability to respond. Also, other towns are busy themselves and cannot respond to our calls for assistance. The double fatal crash on Parker Street recently is another instance where we needed extra officers to block off the roadway, investigate, and control the press, etc. Any armed robbery such as the one behind the Mobil station on Route 2A requires a large response.

Selectman Dore' Hunter asked for some anecdotal examples of instances when an extra officer would have been helpful in the past. I asked my command staff to give me their thoughts and they are copied below:

Lt. Tom Rogers I would stress the need for having the ability to supervise two emergencies at the same time. Presently, the patrol sergeant must act as the back up officer on the second emergency response.

Sgt. Bob Parisi The armed robbery at Olson jewelers, Bank robbery at Citizens Bank X2, Boxboro shooting on Central street, the armed robberies done by the two brothers that Woody went to Fla. after, stabbing on Ladyslipper, B&E to the ATM on Mass ave, the stolen car on Minot ave that involved the accident, when we have snow storms, when we had all the business breaks during the overnight shifts several years ago. I know some of these are several years old.

Sgt. Ed Lawton stabbing on lady slipper
fatal house fire on Capt Forbush (two officers tied up preserving crime scene)
kidnapping on Avalon Drive

Anytime after 1am if we have a Domestic, serious accident, break and Entering, house fire, loud party, alarm, prisoner transport to the hospital with police escort, picking up a 209a violator at another police department, transporting a juv to assisted lockup, often leaves one patrol officer available for calls.

I know I could think of more,

Sgt. Ray Grey Some issues that I find are occurring all the time with our current manpower. Most calls for service now require two officers (alarms/motor vehicle collisions). With three officers this is constantly leaving one officer without a back up. Additionally, when processing a prisoner we always have a patrol officer off the road

Rg 3 of 8

Acton Police Department

InterDepartmental Memo

assisting the booking Sergeant. During this period we go down to two officers and now neither officer has the benefit of a back up when multiple calls come in. I can tell you without any hesitation that over the past twelve months I have never had so many calls "stacked" due to officers being tied up on two officer calls. My last point !!!!! We have started to get calls for service at the newly developed housing projects. When the south precinct is clearing from an alarm on Route 62 and I need him to back up an officer checking an address at Avalon Acton for a kidnapping suspect the response time seems like an hour. The fourth patrol officer would be greatly appreciated.

The time needed to put an officer on patrol can vary greatly but is generally a minimum 8 weeks to hire, 24 weeks in the police academy and at least 8 weeks to work under field training with another officer for a total of 40 weeks. Once in a great while we are able to hire an officer who is already trained but that is rare because we are a civil service department and must work under those guidelines for hiring. If there is a viable list as exists currently, I cannot hire anyone other than those candidates who are generally not trained. When new positions are created I do not have the overtime funds to fill them in advance.

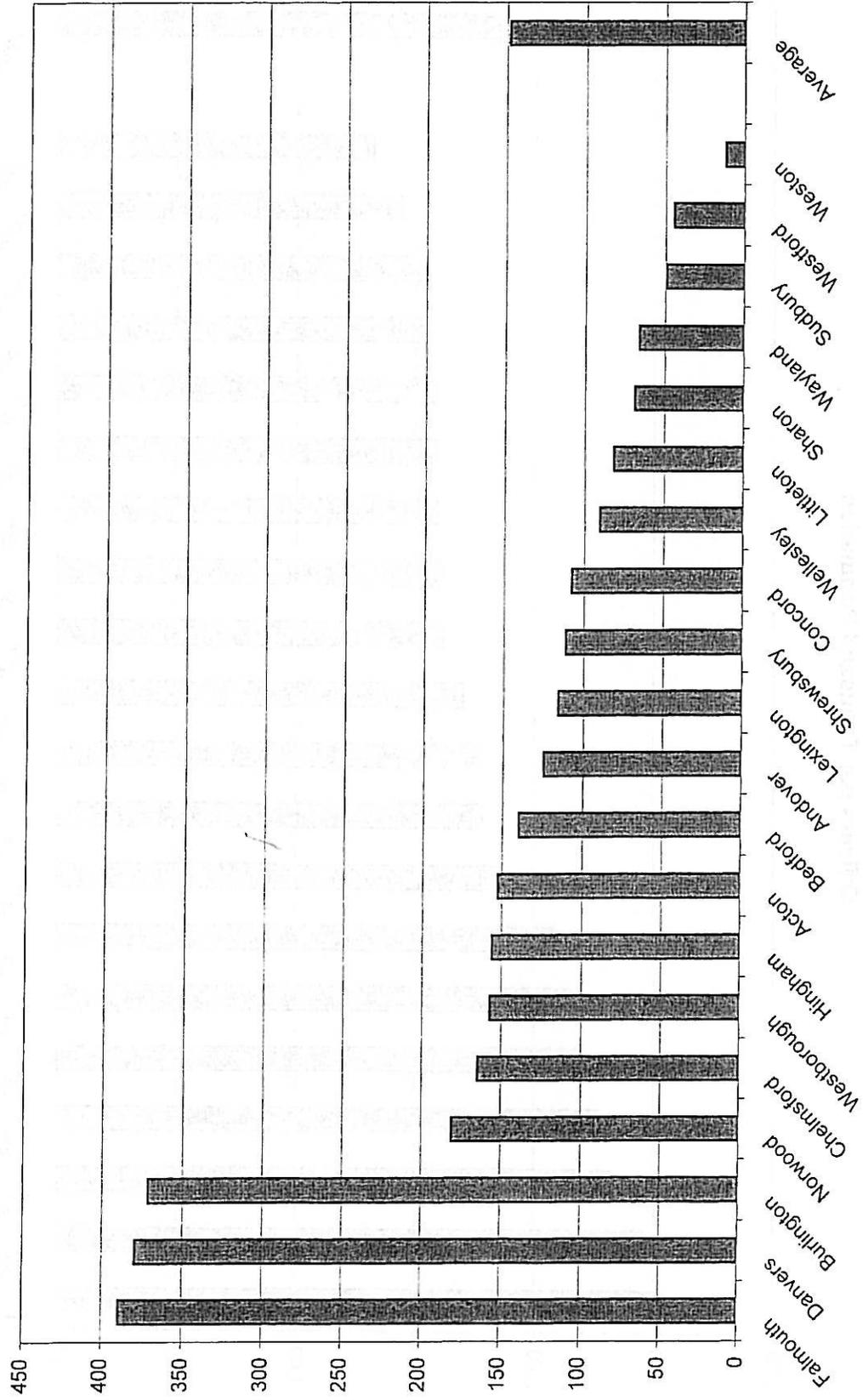
I hope I have answered all the questions adequately so that these positions might be authorized at town meeting.



Frank J. Widmayer III
Chief of Police

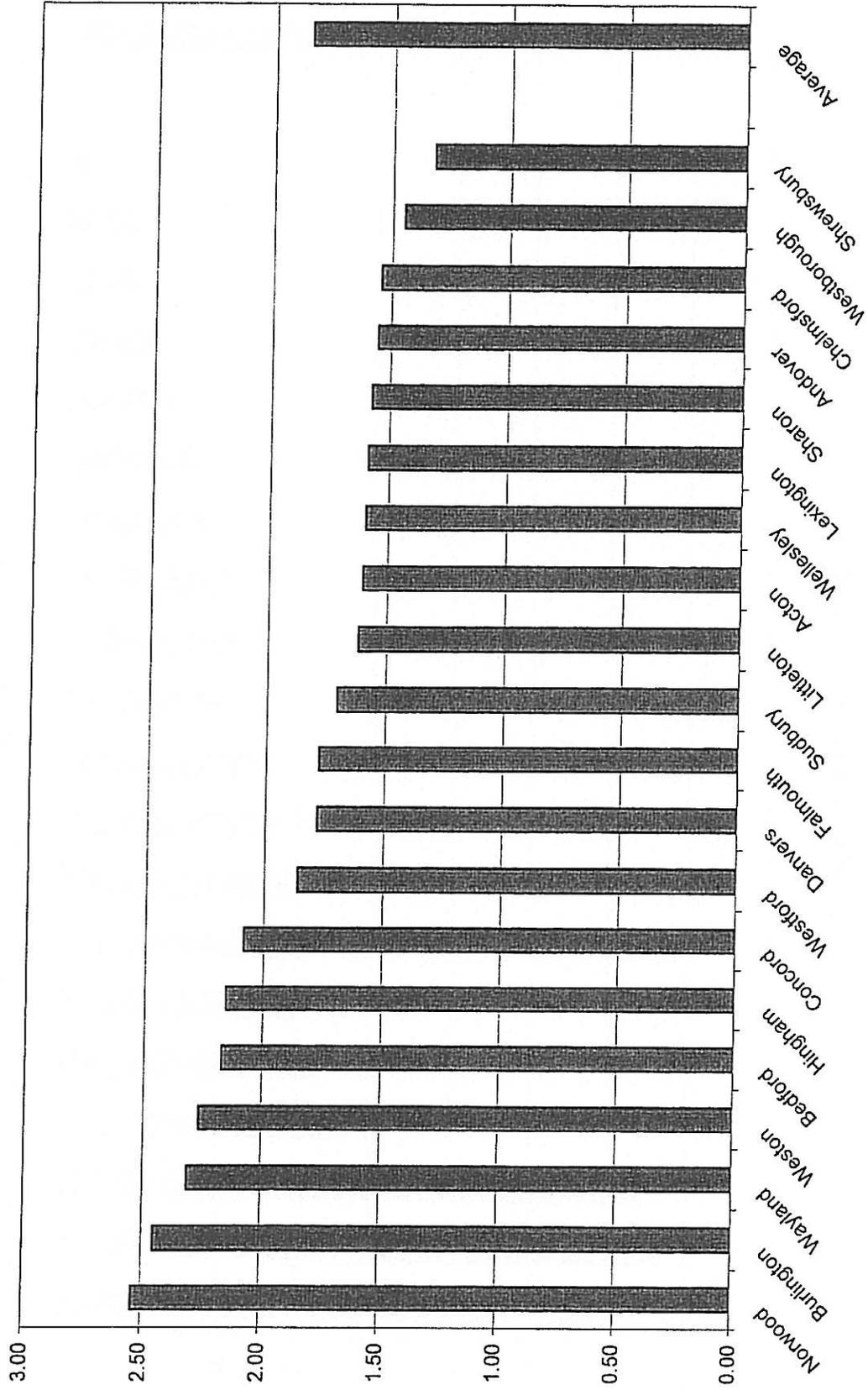
Pg 4 of 8

Crime rate per 10k population



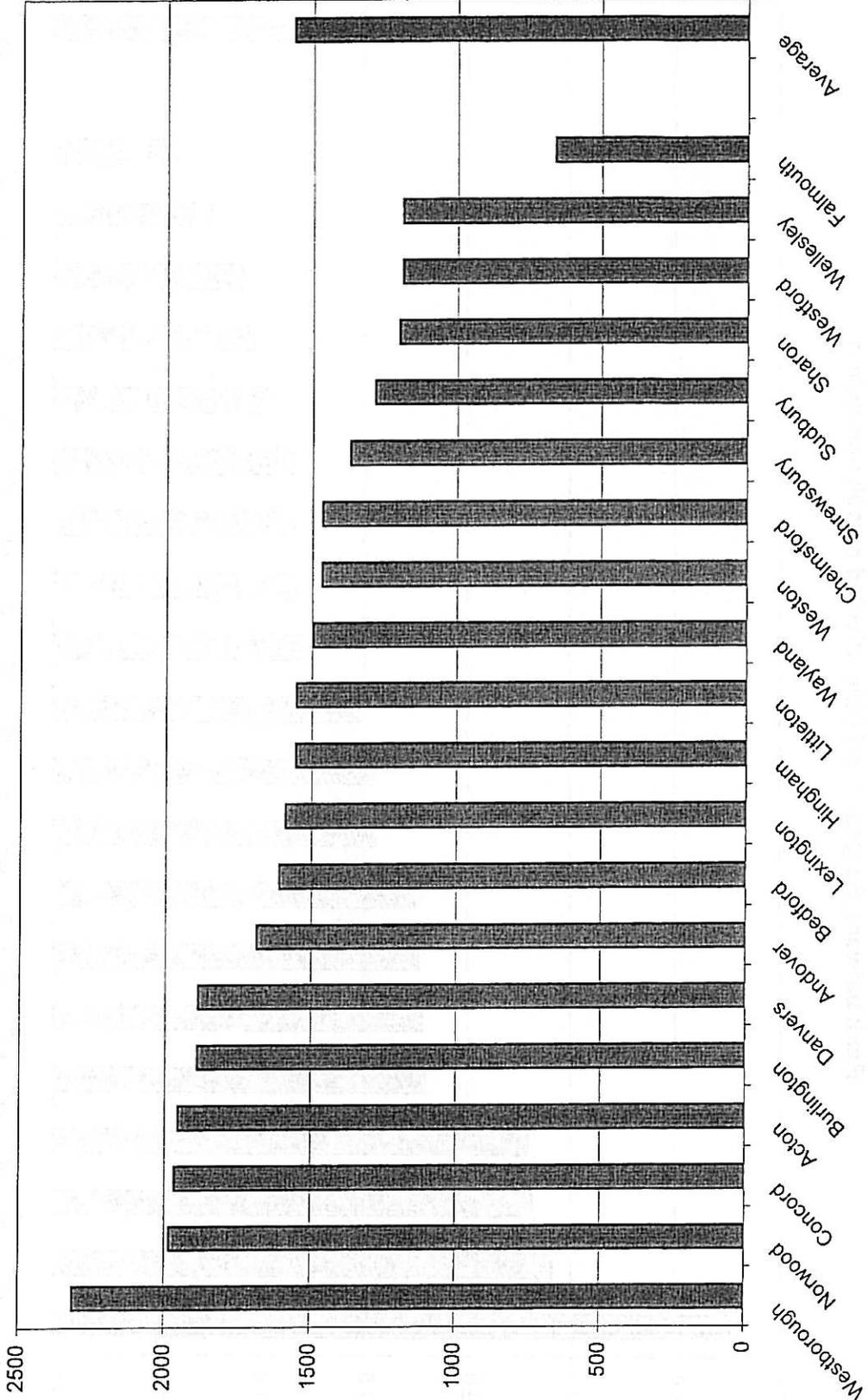
Pg 5 of 8

Officers per Thousand Population



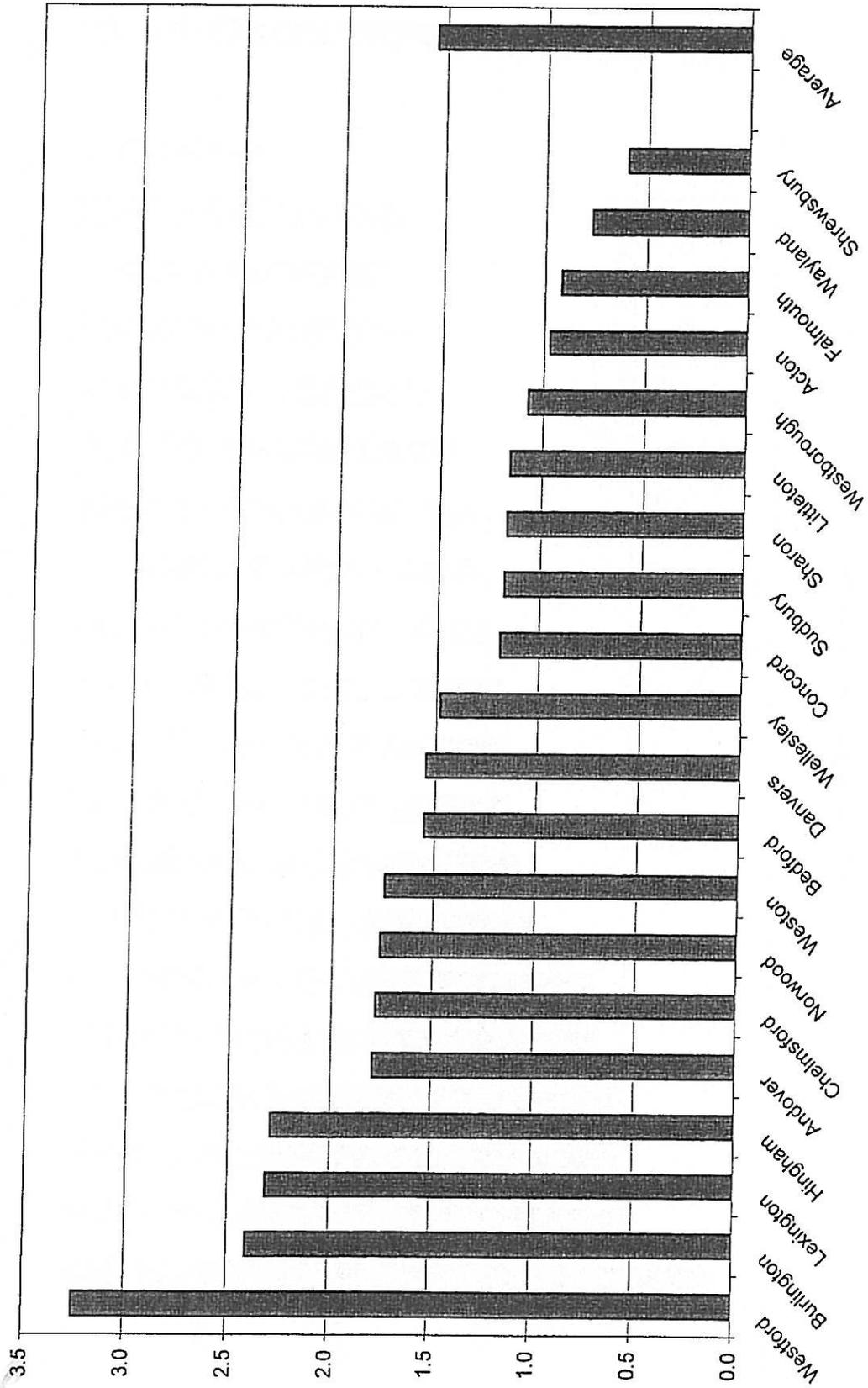
Pg 6 of 8

911 Calls per 10k population



pg 7 of 8

Rank between Sergeant and Chief divided by 10k population



LETTER FROM FIRE CHIEF

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: STEVE LEDOUX, TOWN MANAGER
FROM: ROBERT C. CRAIG, FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ALLEN NITSCHELM RE: 2ND AMBULANCE
DATE: 3/3/2008
CC:

1. There are ten Firefighter/EMT's per shift that are deployed to staff our three Fire/EMS stations. All of these personnel are assigned to a specific fire/EMS station. However, as you may recall one Firefighter/EMT per shift may be reassigned to cover a single shift vacancy to reduce overtime monies that would otherwise have to be spent to cover the shift vacancy. The personnel are assigned as follows: Acton Center Fire/EMS station: one Lieutenant and three Firefighter/EMT's. This station has two pumpers and an ambulance. The Lieutenant and one Firefighter/EMT staff the pumper and the two Firefighter/EMT's staff the ambulance. The other pumper in the station is a second-line pumper. South Acton Fire/EMS station has two Firefighter/EMT's. At that station there is the Aerial Ladder truck, a pumper, and the Fire Alarm repair truck. The on-duty personnel respond on either the pumper or the ladder truck dependent on the response assignment. Finally, the West Acton Fire/EMS station has four personnel normally assigned consisting of a Captain (Shift Commander) and three Firefighter/EMT's. The station houses a command vehicle, two pumpers and the rescue truck. The personnel assigned to this station respond as follows: Shift Commander responds with his assigned command vehicle and the two or three Firefighter/EMT's respond with the pumper (one Firefighter may have been re-assigned to cover a shift vacancy).
2. Following up on the previous question, the ambulance responds from the Acton Center Fire/EMS station. If there were an EMS response in that station's response district, the ambulance would respond with the pumper from that station as well. If the EMS response were in another district, the ambulance would respond as a single unit from the station and would be dispatched with the pumper from the closest fire/EMS station. Therefore, in some cases the ambulance responds as a single unit and the pumper remains in the station or both of the Acton Center units would respond together, if the call were in that district and the station would then be left vacant during the time of the call.
3. Relative to these EMS related questions; personnel are only called-back in the event of a three person transport situation. This does not occur that often and

pg 1 of 2

would be a serious cardiac or trauma transport. The reason for the callback is that a firefighter /EMT may be taken from one of the pumpers to immediately facilitate such a transport, leaving only one firefighter/EMT. Therefore, per contractual agreement the pumper cannot respond with only one Firefighter/EMT and a Firefighter/EMT is called back so that the pumper can be placed back in service as soon as possible. There is a three hour minimum callback, which results in an overtime expenditure of approximately \$100. In reference to your question as to my statements, I think you may be referring to the fact that without hiring additional personnel, if a second ambulance were placed in -service, that would take two Firefighter/EMT's from their pumper assignment and the pumper, would then be out of service. Therefore, two Firefighter/EMT's would have to be called back at an approximate overtime cost of \$200.00.

4. Based on current statistics, I would anticipate that a second ambulance might be utilized approximately 80 times per year. With approximate revenue of \$500 per transport, this would equate to annual revenue of approximately \$ 40,000.
5. The second ambulance would be housed at the South Acton fire/EMS station with the situation as described in the previous question arising if the second ambulance was placed in service. Therefore, the station would be unstaffed until 2 Firefighter /EMT's arrived on a callback situation. Therefore, either a pumper or the ladder truck would be out-of-service for a time.
6. A second-ambulance would be utilized in the same manner that the primary ambulance is and that is for emergency transport only. It would not normally be a first-response vehicle. I can only envision it as a first-response vehicle if the primary ambulance was not available due to a prior call. We would still dispatch a pumper to the call, in addition to the ambulance. In any event, if the EMS call were in South Acton, that station would be unstaffed for a period of time, as happens on many occasions with all of our fire/EMS stations as personnel are out of their stations on various calls.
7. I would correct your statement in that the majority of our Firefighters are EMT's. Specifically, thirty eight of forty-two personnel are EMT's. and the remaining four are qualified as First Responders. Relative to your statements on the use of the ambulance funds, it is my understanding that legally monies from the ambulance revolving fund could be used to offset salaries and/or overtime expenditures provided that benefits are charged as well. However, I am not sure that this is a sustainable revenue source. In the past few years, this revolving fund has primarily been utilized for an ambulance purchase and for the purchase of other EMS equipped apparatus as well.

CURRENT ALG Forecast

**ALG Forecast Model
Summary**

Version 2.0
2/28/2008

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	09/08	10/09	11/10
Budgets Ex Debt							
Municipal	22,485,000	23,621,433	24,982,507	26,211,002	5.90%	4.87%	4.92%
APS	23,309,773	25,169,665	26,952,448	28,571,910	7.98%	7.08%	6.01%
ABRSD	28,779,331	27,386,700	29,000,731	30,740,035	6.24%	5.89%	6.00%
MM	787,000	771,000	794,130	817,954	-2.03%	3.00%	3.00%
Total	72,371,104	77,148,898	81,729,816	86,340,901	6.60%	5.94%	5.64%
Revenue							
Ley ex debt	54,361,000	56,370,000	58,429,000	60,399,725	3.70%	3.65%	3.36%
2.50%	761,000	1,409,000	1,460,725	1,509,743	85.16%	3.67%	3.36%
New Growth	650,000	650,000	500,000	500,000	0.00%	-23.08%	0.00%
Overlay	-500,000	-500,000	-650,000	-650,000	0.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Debt Excl	3,332,000	3,102,000	3,102,000	3,102,000	-6.90%	0.00%	0.00%
Chapier 70	4,230,000	5,228,141	6,012,362	6,793,989	23.60%	15.00%	13.00%
Other Cherry	1,836,000	1,928,000	2,005,120	2,085,325	3.01%	4.00%	4.00%
SBA8	1,086,000	1,086,000	1,086,000	1,086,000	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Excise	3,100,000	2,946,000	3,092,250	3,246,863	-5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Regional	4,823,000	5,787,000	6,602,967	7,395,323	19.54%	14.10%	12.00%
Other	1,733,000	1,685,000	1,733,450	1,785,495	-2.89%	3.00%	3.00%
Subtotal	75,414,000	79,688,141	83,373,914	87,244,442	5.67%	4.63%	4.64%
Total ex Debt	70,995,000	75,500,141	79,195,914	83,058,442	6.34%	4.88%	4.89%
Net Position before Reserve Use	-1,375,104	-1,848,557	-2,543,902	-3,284,459			
Reserve Use							
E&D	286,000	511,000	426,000	446,937			
Free Cash	1,594,000	-62,443	2,118,902	843,850			
Newsic		1,200,000	0	0			
Use of Reserves	1,880,000	1,548,557	2,543,902	1,288,787			
Net Position after Reserve Use	504,896	0	0	-1,994,662			
Balance							
E&D	1,100,000	1,100,000	726,934	445,937			
E&D Generation			136,934	163,700			
E&D Use			-426,000	-446,937			
E&D Balance	1,100,000	1,100,000	726,934	153,700			
Free Cash	1,900,000	2,404,896	2,712,294	2,733,915			
Free Cash Generation		504,896	244,955	273,915			
Free Cash Use	1,900,000	2,404,896	-2,118,902	-843,860			
Free Cash Balance	4,886,417	4,886,417	863,087	283,121			
Newsic			-1,200,000				
Newsic Use			-1,336,819				
Newsic Capital			2,349,598				
Newsic Balance	4,886,417	4,886,417	2,349,598	2,349,598			
Total Reserves	7,986,417	8,391,313	5,787,825	3,648,602			
Existing Valuation							
New Growth Value		FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11		
Total Valuation		4,145,370,000	4,352,638,500	4,570,270,425	4,798,783,946		
Tax Rate		46,066,619	46,066,619	35,743,813	35,991,071		
		4,191,436,619	4,398,705,119	4,606,014,238	4,834,776,018		
		514.11	513.99	513.89	513.66		
SF Value							
SF Tax Bill		569,247	597,709	627,585	658,975		
% Change		79.28	8.361	4.28%	3.17%		
		1.31%	4.10%				
Residential Value							
Residential Tax Bill		6479	488,458	512,881	538,525		
% Change			6.562	7.125	7.351		
			1.28%	4.28%	3.17%		

Page 10 of 11

PROPOSAL

DRAFT

Revenue Sharing Proposal

Fiscal Year	2007	2008	2009		Change
Municipal Revenue:					
Allocation Percentage	30.305%	31.25%	31.67%		
Fees	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,233	Current Budgets (excluding debt):	
Int. Income	\$ 350	\$ 368	\$ 450	per "ALGFY09Official.xls"	
Cherry Sheet (M)	\$ 1,721	\$ 1,836	\$ 1,793	Municipal	\$ 23,234
Tax Levy less excl. debt	\$ 16,508	\$ 17,359	\$ 18,346		\$ 380
Excise Tax	\$ 860	\$ 959	\$ 933	ABRSD	NA
Free cash	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	APS	NA
Windfall Adjustment	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 359	MM	\$ 771
NESWC			\$ 500	Schools Total	\$ 53,843
					\$ (380)
Total Municipal Revenue	\$ 20,739	\$ 22,487	\$ 23,614		
Municipal Share	30.66%	30.88%	30.64%		
Municipal Increase in revenue		8.43%	5.01%		
School Revenue:					
Cherry Sheet (S)	\$ 3,258	\$ 4,168	\$ 5,228		
Pothole	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Regional Rev	\$ 3,868	\$ 4,823	\$ 5,787		
Regional E&D	\$ 337	\$ 286	\$ 511		
Tax Levy less excl. debt	\$ 37,353	\$ 37,914	\$ 39,584		
Excise Tax	\$ 1,945	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,012		
Free Cash	\$ 137	\$ 1,100	\$ 450		
Adjustment	\$ -	\$ (100)	\$ (359)		
NESWC			\$ 250		
Total School Revenue	\$ 46,898	\$ 50,322	\$ 53,463		
School Share	69.34%	69.12%	69.36%		
School increase in revenue		7.30%	6.24%		
TOTAL ALG REVENUE	\$ 67,637	\$ 72,809	\$ 77,077		
Increase in total revenue		7.65%	5.86%		

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Multi-Year Plan

Revenues:	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Tax Levy:				
Base	\$ 54,361	\$ 56,370	\$ 58,430	\$ 60,540
2 1/2%	\$ 761	\$ 1,409	\$ 1,461	\$ 1,514
New Growth	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ 500	\$ 500
Debt Excl.	\$ 3,332	\$ 3,102	\$ 3,067	\$ 3,012
Overlay	\$ (500)	\$ (500)	\$ (650)	\$ (650)
Total Tax Levy (excl. current yr. override)	\$ 58,604	\$ 61,032	\$ 62,808	\$ 64,916
Cherry Sheet	\$ 6,066	\$ 7,021	\$ 8,017	\$ 8,880
SBAB - Twin School	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,086
Excise Taxes	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,945	\$ 3,033	\$ 3,124
Fees	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,233	\$ 1,270	\$ 1,308
Int. Income	\$ 368	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ 450
Pension/Pothole/Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Regional Revenue	\$ 4,825	\$ 5,787	\$ 6,601	\$ 7,399
Regional E&D Acton's share	\$ 286	\$ 511	\$ 425	\$ 446
HS Interest/Bond Prem.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Free Cash	\$ 1,594	\$ 450	\$ 700	\$ 1,530
NESWC for capital	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,200
Operating Override				
Capital Override				
Revenues before Overrides	\$ 77,294	\$ 81,265	\$ 85,790	\$ 90,340
Revenues including Overrides	\$ 77,294	\$ 81,265	\$ 85,790	\$ 90,340
Revenue incl override excluding debt/SBAB	\$ 72,876	\$ 77,077	\$ 81,637	\$ 86,241
Debt Exclusion:				
Debt on APS	\$ 517	\$ 527	\$ 527	\$ 527
Debt on JHS/SHS	\$ 1,778	\$ 1,612	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,575 estimates
Municipal Debt Incurred	\$ 520	\$ 454	\$ 440	\$ 420 "
Debt on Police station	\$ 517	\$ 509	\$ 500	\$ 490 "
Total Debt Exclusions	\$ 3,332	\$ 3,102	\$ 3,067	\$ 3,012
Budgets Excluding Debt:				
Municipal Budget	\$ 22,325	\$ 23,614	\$ 24,764	\$ 25,982
APS Budget	\$ 23,397	\$ 25,170	\$ 26,932	\$ 28,548
ABRSD Budget - Acton Share *	\$ 25,811	\$ 27,522	\$ 29,143	\$ 30,892
MM Assumption	\$ 787	\$ 771	\$ 794	\$ 818
Subtotal schools	\$ 49,995	\$ 53,463	\$ 56,869	\$ 60,257
TOTAL	\$ 72,320	\$ 77,077	\$ 81,633	\$ 86,240
% increase		6.6%	5.9%	5.6%
NET POSITION	\$ 556	\$ (0)	\$ 4	\$ 1
Reserves:				
Free Cash	\$ 2,405	\$ 2,511	\$ 2,065	\$ 785
NESWC	\$ 4,886	\$ 4,136	\$ 2,736	\$ 1,536
E&D	\$ 1,100	\$ 726	\$ 446	\$ 154
TOTAL	\$ 8,391	\$ 7,373	\$ 5,247	\$ 2,475
Tax Impact:				
Existing Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,851,376	\$ 3,658,807	\$ 3,701,042	\$ 3,917,312
New Growth value ('000s)	\$ -	\$ 42,235	\$ 29,731	\$ 29,161
Total Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,851,376	\$ 3,701,042	\$ 3,730,773	\$ 3,946,474
Tax Rate	\$ 15.39	\$ 16.82	\$ 17.15	\$ 16.74
SF Value	\$ 542,140	\$ 496,954	\$ 496,954	\$ 521,801
SF Tax Bill	\$ 7,928	\$ 8,357	\$ 8,521	\$ 8,734
% Change	1.29%	3.81%	1.95%	2.50%

FY09 budget and split based on PKA compromise proposal

Revenue increases based on S. Noone Plan - no attempt to adjust split

% incr in budgets based on S. Noone Plan - no attempt to adjust split

Valuation falls 5% in FY09, remains level in FY10 and increases 5% in FY11

pg 2 of 2



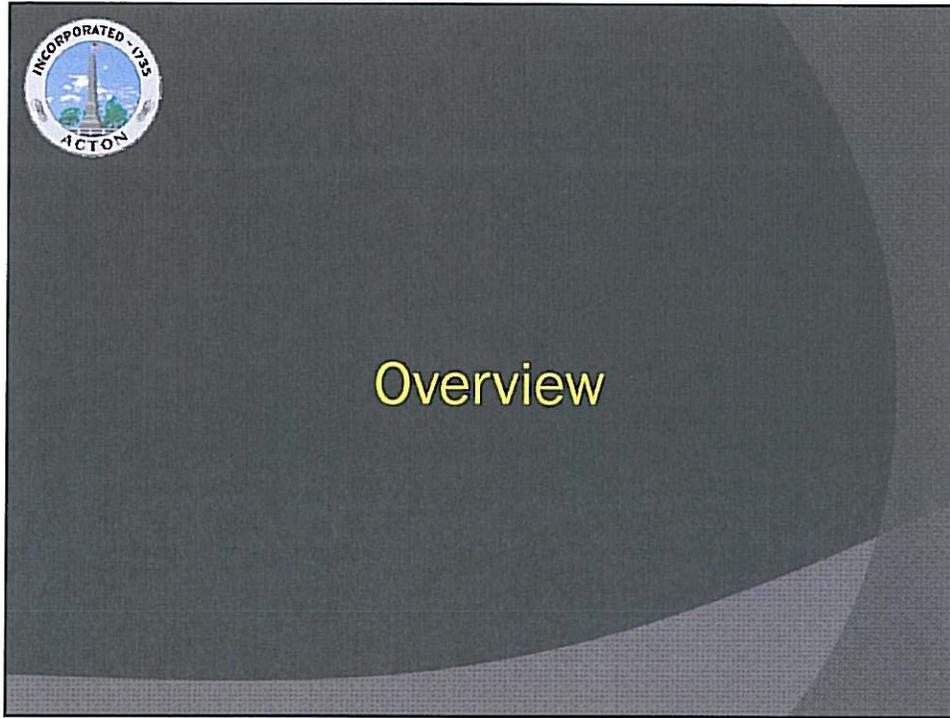
FY 2009 Budget Presentation to the Finance Committee

March 4, 2008



Agenda

- Overview
- Frequently Asked Questions

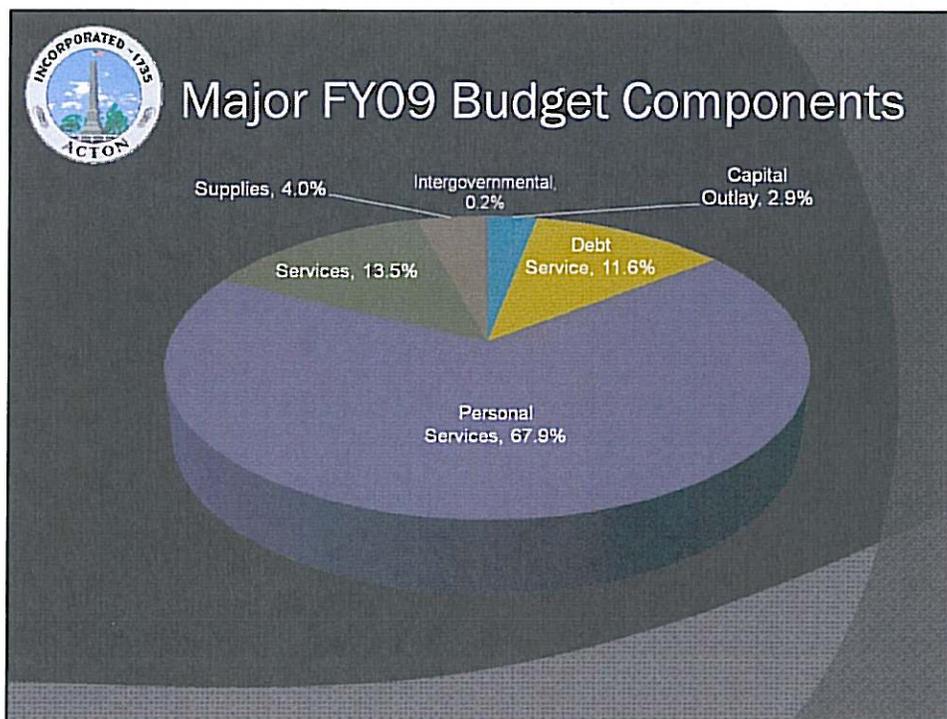


General Revenue Allocation (includes \$375,000 of NESWC Surplus Funds)	\$23,234
Add – Excluded Debt Service & SBAB Aid	
APS	527
Municipal	963
School Building Aid	1,086
Add: Intergovernmental Agreements	
Douglas Modular Debt Service	89
Douglas Heating Debt Service	38
Cops In School Program	67
Dedicated NESWC Fund Transfer	1,463
Other Transfers	250
Total Municipal Spending	\$27,717



Overview

Article 3 – CoA Van Enterprise Budget (Tax Subsidy only)	\$56,607
Article 5 – Septage Disposal Enterprise (Fund Bal Decrease Only)	\$25,000
Article 7 – Recycling And Transfer Station (formerly NESWC) (Fund Bal Decrease Only)	\$385,000
Article 8 – Self-Funding Programs (Fund Bal Decrease Only)	\$225,000
Article 16 A-B Cultural Council	\$2,000
Article 17 – Budget Transfer	\$7,500
Article 18 Municipal Budget	\$25,571,354
Article 19 Personnel	\$218,400
Article 21 – Capital Improvements - Studies	\$255,000
Article 22 – Capital Improvements – Infrastructure Improvements	\$497,000
Article 23 – Capital Improvements – Equipment & Vehicles	\$101,200
Article 24 – Energy Savings initiative – Municipal Buildings	\$75,000
Article 25 – Energy Savings initiative – Streetlight Replacement	\$125,000
Article 28 – Municipal Debt Service	\$172,939
Total Municipal Spending	\$27,717,000





- Recurring Revenues
 - \$25,629,000
 - \$27,717K Less
 - \$375K NESWC Funds – Art. 18 (Free Cash Substitution)
 - \$385K NESWC Funds – Art. 7
 - \$1,078K NESWC Funds – Art. 21-28
 - \$ 250K Other
- Non-capital & Recurring Expenses
 - **\$24,863,000**
 - Article 16 A-B Cultural Council \$2,000
 - Article 18 Municipal Budget \$24,836,961
 - \$25,242,961
 - Less Paving \$206K
 - Less Sidewalk Construction \$200K
 - Article 19 Personnel \$218,400

Sustainability Index: 1.01

(\$1.01 of Recurring Revenue for each \$1 of Expense)



Capital and Non-Recurring Spending

- **Article 5 -- \$25,000**
 - Replacement Vehicle (Health)
- **Article 7 -- \$385,000**
 - Recycling Equipment and Transfer Station Paving
- **Article 8 -- \$225,000**
 - Second Ambulance and Replacement Vehicle (Building)
- **Article 17 – \$7,500**
 - CoA Van Service
- **Article 18 - \$406,000**
 - Sidewalk Construction & Paving



Capital & Non-Recurring Spending - Continued

- **Article 21 -- \$225,000**
 - Studies
- **Article 22 -- \$497,000**
 - Infrastructure Improvements
- **Article 23 -- \$101,200**
 - Equipment and Vehicle Replacement
- **Article 24 -- \$75,000**
 - Municipal Building Energy Improvements
- **Article 25 -- \$125,000**
 - Streetlight Energy improvements
- **Article 28 -- \$172,939**
 - Municipal Debt Service



Capital and Non-Recurring Recap

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Capital & Non-Recurring Spending • \$2,274,639 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Non-Recurring Revenues • \$2,088,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESWC - \$ 1,838 • Other - \$ 250 |
|---|---|

Non-Recurring Sustainability: 92%
 (\$0.08 per dollar spent is funded by recurring revenues)



Frequently Asked Questions



Fire Department Ladder Truck

- Refurbishment could take six months
- Replacement equipment not readily available
- Double frame flanges swelling due to corrosion and scale growth
- Refurbishment does not include wiring, air lines, valves, etc.
- Refurbishment does not include warranty on engine, brakes, pump, etc.
- Major and minor components (generator, pump, etc.) showing wear
- Cost to refurbish everything would exceed value of truck





Fire Department Pumper Truck

- Trade-in estimates range from \$0 to \$10,500
- All Apparatus (Ambulance, Pumper, Ladder) carry Firefighter/EMT personnel
- All First-Line Apparatus carry Emergency Medical supplies similar to an Ambulance



Highway Department High-Capacity Snow Blower

- 1973 International (right), permanent attachment
- Parts nearly impossible to locate or manufacture
- New loader attachment (left) interchangeable with current Town equipment
- Loaders are multi-purpose, year-round usable





Police

Deputy Chief

- Crime rate per 10,000 population
- Officers per 1,000 population
- 911 Calls per 10,000 population
- Rank between Sergeant and Chief



Police

Police Officer

- Understaffed – Overtime required to fill shifts
- Emergencies requiring extra officers, e.g.:
 - Snowstorms
 - Vehicle crashes, fatal accidents
 - Armed robberies
 - Fires, family violence, prisoner bookings and transports



Human Resources Director

- Advertised March 2: Boston Globe, Mass. Municipal Association
- Applications due March 28
- Internal committee formed to facilitate hiring recommendation



Part-Time Labor/Benefits

18 Part-Time staff

- Clerks - 2
- Principal Clerk - 1
- Secretary - 1
- Home Health Aides - 3
- On Call Nurse - 2
- Nurse - Supervisor - 1
- COA Asst - 1
- COA Outreach Coordinator - 1
- COA Program Director - 1
- Young Adult Librarian - 1
- Cataloguer - 1
- Circ Asst II - 2
- West Acton Library Director - 1



Assistant Planner/ZEO

- Steep rise in workload over past four years:
 - Zoning Enforcement transferred from Building Department
 - Population growth
 - Rise in public inquiries
 - High demand for information
 - State and federal requirements
 - Two rail trail projects
 - Support seven boards and committees



Thank You