

**Essex Finance Committee**  
**February 12, 2008**

Members Present: Jeffrey Soulard, Gordon Martin, Ed Lafferty, James Horrocks,  
Mark McKenna

1. Transfers - none
  
2. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes Approved the meeting minutes of 1/28/08 and all previous meeting minutes
  
3. Discuss “Scenic Byway” Article – The board discussed the of the idea of the scenic by law and while we understand the premise behind it the Finance Committee elect not to endorse it at this time. We feel that a town wide zoning law would be a better solution
  
4. Discuss 2% interest on paid by residents on Sewer Betterments – The town is currently is charging the required minimum amount by the state and would occur legal costs if we tried to charge a lower rate. The board is going to try and determine the amount of homes affected by the betterment and will discuss at the next meeting.
  
5. Discuss FY 09 Budget
  - a. Ed/Jim –  
DPW Board is going back to DPW and ask them to hold off until the fall for the snow plowing equipment  
EYC – Board is requesting a meeting to with the EYC about their budget because as of the meeting we have not received the 09 budget yet. Also spoke about the enterprise fund and how it is currently set up.
  
  - b. Gordon/Mark – Police, Fire  
Police- Spoke about the cuts that will be recommended to the police department and we are looking at least a 20K cut and possibly more. We are trying to understand the police budget and will be going back ant trying to figure out what is contractual and what can possibly be cut.  
Fire - Asking the fire department to look at taking out an additional 10K out of their budget
  
  - c. Jeff /Dave –  
Board of Health  
Board of Selectman - Talked about the selectman budget and the concern with the increase for the support of the ??  
  
MERSD – talked about going back to the district and asking if they can make up the difference this year out of their free cash budget.