

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The FY09 Budget was a difficult year in which Departmental budgets were marked by level service figures. However, a withdrawal from the Town Stabilization Fund of \$350,000.00 and an override for \$650,000.00 allowed us to fund present budgets including a large solid waste budget.

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all those people who have counseled, advised and appeared before the Committee in the past years. In particular, we would like to thank the Treasurer, Mr. Leo Provost and the then-Assessor Mr. Charles Shea. We would also like to thank the Town Manager Mr. Phil Warren, the Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Dori Jamieson, Ms. Nancy Hurst and Ms. Elizabeth Shea in the Selectmen's Office, and Anthony Sulmonte the Town Accountant. We are also very grateful to the Town Departments for their patient discussion and meetings with us during the Budget process. We would like to thank the Selectmen and various Town Committees and Boards for their continued support. Lastly, special mention must be made of the continued support, presence and constant communication of Representative Allen McCarthy regarding the overall State Budget.

The Finance committee itself is made of volunteer members. We were very fortunate to include in the FY09 Budget process members Chris Fanara, Phil Parks, Michael Stracco, Chris Aiello and Kate Repice. This coming FY09/FY10 Year sees new members Maureen Jansen, Katie Marini, Michael Boyle, Barbara Cristofaro join existing members Paul Joyce, Sean Tyler, Teresa Maze and Denis Bergin. The constant presence and attention during these changes of our executive secretary, Ms. Deborah Libby is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated by all of us.

Our Town continues to be challenged with increasing nationwide and statewide financial turmoil. Greater scrutiny and an emphasis on level funded department budgets appear to be the themes of the coming Budget of FY10. Additionally, shortfalls in State aid for the existing FY09 Budget present an immediate dilemma and call for action.

Throughout these Budget processes, the Abington Finance Committee appreciates the great honor of making recommendations to the Townspeople, and their continued support.