

Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.
Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Call To Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chairman Mike Thomas, Vice-Chair Paul Helmreich, Tom DeLuca, Jackie Desrochers, Angel Doyle, Donna Summerfield, Lee Tarantino, and Philip Zawasky. Absent: Mike Fiore.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2006, as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. New Business

1. Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Articles

Various articles were discussed. Active/passive recreation sites discussed.

Mr. Purcell said criteria listed in Ms. Carlino's report would be helpful to FinCom and criteria to be spelled out in every parcel. Mr. Helmreich said it would be beneficial to know how much is wetlands and how much could be used for active recreation. Finance Committee decided to defer action on Canoe River until info was received.

Ms. Carlino discussed Canoe River: 34.83 acres; Hockomock Swamp: 78.49 acres; and Crooked Meadow Swamp: 56.92 acres

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to Recommend Article 17 (Hockomock Swamp).

Discussion: Ms. Summerfield asked if Board of Selectmen have made a decision.

Mr. Purcell said full text of report Board of Selectmen did review. Mr. Purcell referenced Appendix C: property for sale and first auction coming up. No vote was taken that he recalled, but he suspected Board of Selectmen would vote to endorse it.

Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 19: Crooked Swamp

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to Recommend Article 19 (Crooked Swamp).
Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

2. Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget Discussion

Mr. Purcell said there were substantial manpower requests for public safety. He requested a ten minute Executive Session with FinCom to give them collective bargaining update so they can understand context that it is in.

Mr. Purcell stated the balance budget Article to be submitted; a single contingent article to follow. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Purcell said he would like some consensus on 2 1/2 operating budget Mr. Helmreich said side by side budget needed. Mr. Tarantino recommended a balanced budget; second article - override budget. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Purcell said three public safety heads to be present at FinCom meeting on April 3, 2006.

April 3 - Capital Meeting around 6 p.m., possibly Library may be good room in which to hold it.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero, Moderator, #114, Other Personnel Services (510). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero, Moderator, #114, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Reserve Account

It was noted there was nothing in recent years added to FinCom reserve.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$150,000 for FinCom Reserve.

Discussion: Mr. Thomas said they may tap into this; budget so tight and if no override they would use this. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Web Committee:

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$100, Web Committee, #156, Other Charges and Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Legal Services

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$80,000 for Legal Services, #151, Purchase of Services(520). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

SRPEDD

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$29,000 for SRPEDD, #176, Assessment (560). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

IDC

MOTION by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero, Zoning Board of Appeals #177, Personal Service (510). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$300.00, Zoning Board of Appeals #570, Other Charges and Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Town Reports

MOTION by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$3,500.00, Town Reports, #195, Purchase of Services (520). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

MOTION by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$2,000.00, Sealer of Weights and Measures, #244, Other Charges and Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Tree Warden #294

Mr. Purcell said they can probably fill slot from highway dept. Mr. Tarantino asked if this position could be shared between towns? Mr. Purcell would look into this.

MOTION by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$500.00, Tree Warden, #294, Other Charges and Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Athletic Complex

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero for Athletic Complex, #304, Other Charges and Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

County AG

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$18,000.00 for County AG, #308, Assessment (560). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Snow Removal

Mr. Helmreich was concerned this was not a realistic figure. Mr. Purcell would get look into this.

Street Lighting

Mr. Purcell said he looked into buying lights. Person affiliated with information on lighting, etc. will come into FinCom meeting to present.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$90,000.00 for Street Lighting, #425, Purchase of Services (520). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Sanitary Landfill

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$3,956.00 for Sanitary Landfill, #438, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Commission on Disability

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$100.00 for Commission on Disability, #549, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Cultural Council

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero for Cultural Council, #650, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Historical Commission

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$100.00 for Historical Commission, #691, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky.

Discussion: Mr. Helmreich said dept. request is \$100; Commission could have more expenses since it is anniversary of Town; they could come before FinCom for a transfer if needed.

Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Memorial & Vets

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$1,500.00 for Memorial & Vets, #692, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Historic District Commission

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$1,000.00 for Historic District Commission, #693, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Maturing Debt

Mr. Purcell said existing debt schedule he agrees with on matter of interest. He referenced debt schedule (Mansfield Ave. acquisition of property) but sewer force main to be done fairly soon (about \$6,375).

Unemployment

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$85,000.00 for Unemployment, #911, Other Charges & Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Purcell asked to wait until next meeting for this one.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich at 9:15 p.m. to enter into Executive Session and not to return to Open Session for purpose to discuss labor negotiations. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Janet Sweeney, Finance Committee Recording Secretary