

Finance Committee Meeting
September 24, 2007
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

Present: Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Vice-Chair, Michael Thomas; Pasquale Barletta; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf; Paul Helmreich.

Absent: Robert Bouchard; Philip Zawasky.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the September 19, 2007 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. Old Business

A. Mr. Tarantino informed the FinCom that the Association of Town Finance Committees 2007 Annual Meeting will be held on November 3, 2007. He said if anyone was interested in attending to let him know, as the deadline for registration is Oct. 22nd. Mr. Barletta said he would like to attend.

B. Mr. Tarantino said that the YMCA is requesting a member from the FinCom to volunteer to be on a committee to help plan the Tri-centennial Celebration of Norton, to be held in 2011. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 6:15. Mr. Tarantino said he would be interested in the position. Without anyone else expressing interest in the position, Mr. Helmreich made a **motion** to approve Mr. Tarantino to represent the FinCom on the committee. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

C. Mr. Tarantino discussed the possibility of having a workshop to discuss FinCom procedures, terms, etc. to answer any questions anyone may have, as well as get everyone "on the same page" when discussing the issues. He said the workshop could possibly take place in the library or the Selectmen's Conference Room. Mr. Tarantino said that this meeting will need to be posted and that they will request that Mr. Purcell, Town Manager, be present. Mr. Tarantino discussed the possibility of having the meeting on a Saturday morning. Mr. Graf made the suggestion of having written material to accompany the information being presented. Mr. Tarantino said he is open to any suggestions as to what material should be covered.

III. New Business

Mr. Knapp from the Water/Sewer Dept. addressed the Finance Committee regarding **Articles 5, 2, and 12** in the Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 5 –

- Mr. Knapp said that at the May 2001 Town Meeting, when the Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan (CWRMP) was mandated, the town voted to fund \$375K for the project. He said some of the money was not used. In February 2003, it was voted to reduce the fund by \$27K because the bid came in that much less, at \$348K.
- Mr. Knapp said that the CWRMP report is not complete and testing still needs to be done on the town owned site on Pine Street. He said the request is for the \$45K to be transferred from the Water Surplus Account. He also said that \$75K is appropriated by the state for both Norton and Mansfield to conduct testing, and whatever Norton receives will be put back into the Water Surplus Account, therefore reducing the requested amount of \$45K.
- Mr. Stan Yanuskiewicz, from the engineering firm Western & Sampson, further explained that the requested money would go towards testing for ground disposal. The testing would address how much water can go in, where the water will go, and what impact it will have on the town wells

near-by. He said Mansfield will also be testing in that area because they also own land there. Mansfield needs more flow for the possibility of a future sewer program.

- Mr. Knapp said that Mansfield is starting a \$28-30 million upgrading project and as a part of the Intermunicipal Agreement, if Norton does nothing to aid in that upgrade through their own testing, then Norton will be responsible for paying 15.9% of the cost of Mansfield's project.
- Mr. Knapp said that there continue to be issues between Norton and Mansfield over current capacity as well as how much each town is entitled to for the future. He also stated that a new Intermunicipal Agreement is currently being worked on.
- Mr. Knapp said that if testing is not done it will never be known how much Norton can hold. This information is important when considering sewer systems for the town. Mr. Knapp said 50% of the Title V in town are failing and that the town is now looking at community sewer systems (Arrowhead Village, Bay Road Heights).
- Mr. Helmreich stated concerns about the study results expiring before the town is able to use them. Mr. Yanuskiewicz said that every 10-15 years the reports need to be updated, and that the current reports are 2 years old.

Article 2 – The Water Dept. is requesting, as part of the Capital Improvements Fund Article, to purchase a Loader for \$71,500.00. Mr. Knapp said that this would be bought with money from the Water Department Reserve Account. The loader would allow the Water Dept. to do a lot of jobs in-house rather than contracting jobs out. Mr. Knapp said that this would save the town a significant amount of money. Mr. DeLuca pointed out that Mr. Knapp would also have to present this request before the Capital Improvements Committee because it is under the Capital Improvement Article. Mr. Knapp said that he had never presented any other request to the Cap. Imp. Committee, but this is because the other requests were their own separate articles.

Article 12 – Storm Water Drains – Mr. Knapp said this issue came as a result of the studies involved with the mandated Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan. He said it would be better addressed by the Highway Department.

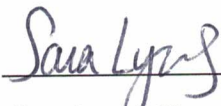
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 7:30pm.
Mr. Silver from the Highway Department will address the FinCom regarding Article 12.
Mr. Gabriel from the Planning Board will address the FinCom regarding Article 10.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:45pm. Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous.
Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary