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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 26, 2007
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

Present: Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Pasquale Barletta; Thomas Deluca; Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf; Paul Helmreich; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Vice-Chair, Michael Thomas; Robert Bouchard

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30.

I. Approval of Minutes

There were not any minutes to review.

II. Old Business

A. Article 9 – Maple Street – Mr. Purcell that this Article will not be ready for the Town Meeting on October 15th because a lot of legal work has yet to be completed. He recommended to the FinCom that no motion be made.

B. Article 6 – Trains/Shpack – Mr. Purcell said that at Town Meeting in 1998 \$50K was appropriated for defense against the South East Rail Project. The local political action group at the time raised enough money for studies, signs, etc. that none of the \$50K was needed for use. When the train proposal was defeated, later town meetings voted this "Train" money to be transferred into Shpack and ALI accounts. Presently there is \$30K in one account and \$14K in another. Mr. Purcell said that if the proposed \$30K is transferred into a train account it will be a strong political statement that Norton is going to be aggressive in fighting the Attleboro Alternative. Mr. Purcell said that the Selectmen are opposing the Attleboro Alternative and are placing it on the Town Warrant. He also said that the Mayors of Attleboro and Taunton have voted to join Norton in fighting the Attleboro Alternative.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 6, the transferring of \$30K from the Shpack/ALI account to Trains. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Graf abstaining. **Motion carries.**

C. Article 3 – Operating Budget Supplements

- Mr. Purcell discussed a handout that he distributed, outlining each departmental request, totaling \$48,998.00. He said that three of them have the possibility of being an intradepartmental transfer of money from wages to expenses. Mr. Purcell stressed the importance of funding 2 part-time positions in the Communications Department. He said it is a critical public safety issue to have two people, instead of one person, working certain shifts.
- Mr. Helmreich questioned where the funding for this request will come. Mr. Purcell said that the New Growth will cover the total for Article 3, as well as the lowering of the estimate of motor vehicle excise tax and building permit fees.

D. Article 11 – Fiscal Town Report by-law – It is being proposed that the new by-law require the town report be delivered seven days prior to the Spring Town Meeting.

III. New Business

A. Mr. Keith Silver from the Highway Department addressed the Finance Committee regarding **Article 12** on the Town Warrant – Storm Water Drain by-law.

- Mr. Silver said that every town has to have a by-law that addresses storm water drains. He said that the drains are for municipal use only. Residents should not be using the drains to dump oil, chemicals, yard waste, trash, etc. The by-law will give the town the authority to correct any offenders.
- Mr. Tarantino stated the need for consistency in the wording of the by-law. He also said that there should be nothing vague about the wording, particularly concerning time limits.
- Mr. Silver said that most of the storm water drains drain into a retention/leeching basin; some drain into Lake Winnecunnet and the Canoe River; and some subdivisions have retention basins. Mr. Zawasky said that this should be explained at Town Meeting so that the people in town will know what happens when something is put into a storm water drain.
- Mr. Silver said that as the by-law is written, when a resident offends the by-law the result is a court hearing. Mr. Tarantino expressed that he felt that there should be a local appeal before a court hearing. He feels that if a resident disagrees with a charge that they have violated the by-law that the resident should be given the chance to work with the town to reach a compromise before having to go to court. This would save all parties money and time. Mr. Helmreich agreed and said he felt the process should be: (1) the resident is given notification of offense with a request to correct it, (2) if no progress then the resident would be given a deadline to correct what has been done, (3) court hearing.

B. Article 10 – Fuller Drive

- Mr. Purcell said that the Planning Board voted (4 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstaining) to accept Fuller Drive as a public way. He said that other town departments have also recommended it – FD, Highway, Water. Joanne Harris, Chair of the Planning Board, told Mr. Purcell that the engineer/surveyor is going to put a notation on the as-built plan to indicate a common driveway.
- The FinCom will not vote for recommending this until they receive a letter from the Planning Board stating their acceptance of this as a public way.

C. Mr. Tarantino requested a report of any other committee meetings that FinCom members have been a part of recently.

- Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Helmreich are members of the Budget Review Committee/Adhoc. Mr. DeLuca said that this committee met and discussed ways to generate new forms of revenue and/or grants. Mr. Helmreich said that they are attempting to assess some basic needs – how well departments are performing, what services are being provided, what services are needed, etc.
- Mr. Tarantino attended the first meeting of the group organizing the Tricentennial Celebration for 2011. He said they generated a list of ideas including the following: logo/slogan contest, web page, "brothers of the bush", "belles", art show, commemorative plate, ball, minutemen, 1st night, 100year time capsule. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 6:15pm at the Historical Society Building.

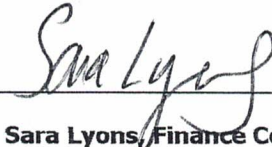
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:15pm. Second by Mr. Barletta. Vote:
Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sara Lyons", is written over a horizontal line.

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary