

**Finance Committee Meeting  
February 11, 2008  
7:30 PM  
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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2008 FEB 26 PM 12:54  
NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Thomas DeLuca; Wayne Graf; Paul Helmreich; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Absent:** Vice-Chair, Michael Thomas; Jackie Desrochers.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the February 4, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**II. Old Business**

**III. New Business**

Per Mr. Zawasky's request, the Finance Committee observed a moment of reflection for the late Mr. Leo Yelle.

**A. Reserve Fund transfer requests -**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the transfer of \$5,000.00 from the Reserve Account to the Costs of Tax Title Account (1-158-570-5366). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Purcell presented the FinCom with a second request for a Reserve Fund transfer for the Conservation Commission. It is noted that the requested amount would be used for "six month inspections of the Norton Reservoir Dam according to the Office of Dam Safety Non-Compliance Order". Mr. Purcell noted that the frequency of dam inspections has increased due to the dam being termed "non-compliant". He also made the suggestion that the unexpended money that is in the Winnecunnet account, which was not approved for spending at the Town Meeting this past fall, could possibly be transferred into a Dam account and used for paying for the dam inspections.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the transfer of \$2,500.00 from the Reserve Account to Conservation. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

In the discussion of this motion, Mr. Helmreich questioned a deadline of February 15, 2008 that was written on a letter of correspondence from the Office of Dam Safety. Mr. Purcell assured the FinCom that the town will not be held to that deadline.

After the transfer of funds for these 2 requests, the new balance in the Reserve Fund will be \$133,227.

**B.** Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom will a new "Control Sheet" because the actual number for the Southeastern Regional-Vocational High School has been received. The new number is \$934,439, which is a difference of \$65,160 from what was projected, putting the debt at \$529,622.

Mr. Purcell said at this point the "Control Sheet" provides a good idea of what the total operating revenue for FY '09 will be.

Mr. Purcell said that in light of the \$529,622 deficit, the town will have to reduce the school and government operating budgets with a 70-30 split, respectively.

Mr. Helmreich pointed out that this deficit number is not including *any* wage increases. It was noted that contracts end on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Purcell referred the FinCom members to the "Debt Schedule" sheet, previously handed out. He showed that the six Title V amounts, when added together, equal the 'septic betterments' number on the "Control Sheet".

**C. Fixed & Misc. General Government – "Fixed General Government Expenses"**

(page in Budget Book)

Mr. Purcell noted that the following are mandated obligations.

1. Reserve Fund - \$ 150,000 - Mr. Helmreich questioned whether or not more money should be in this account in order to deal with the deficit.
2. Legal Services – Mr. Purcell said that this fund goes towards an Annual Litigation Status Report. He said that the town currently has approx. 18-20 active cases, including neighborhood issues – trash, junk cars, public safety issues. Also, he said that the Building Inspector is new and needs to consult counsel for various things.
3. Tax Title Foreclosure – undetermined amount; this goes towards filing fees, transaction fees, setting up tax schedules for people who are unable to pay, etc. Mr. Purcell said that there will be another land auction this year.
4. Elections - \$38,824
5. SE Reg. Plan and Economic Development - \$2,914 – transportation planning, environmental planning, annual reports.
6. Town Report - \$3,500
7. Postage – amount undetermined
8. Sealer Weights and Measures - \$2,000 – is a consumer protection issue. The Comm. Of Mass. Div. Of Standards performs this for the town. They measure gas pump devices, test grocery scales, etc.
9. Street Lighting - \$102,000 – Mr. Zawasky asked about energy efficient bulbs. Mr. Purcell said that he hasn't heard of anything addressing that.
10. Sanitary Landfill - \$3,956 – when a landfill is closed, it is town's responsibility to monitor it for 30 years - methane gas, leeching tests, well

Mr. Purcell quickly reviewed the minimal expenses outlined on the "**Miscellaneous Town Officers and Board Expenses**" page in the Budget Book.

**Next Meeting**

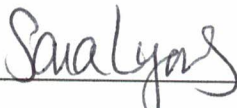
The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 7:30pm.

The upcoming meeting on Monday, February 25, 2008 will include an executive session.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary