

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**March 3, 2008**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

**Absent:** Robert Bouchard; Jackie Desrochers.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35.

**I. Approval of Minutes** (done at end of meeting)

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the February 25, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the February 27, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

Superintendent Luis Lopes, from Southeastern Regional School District, presented the FinCom with a handout outlining their FY '09 approved budget. He said that the packet of information shows how the budget has been reduced to only what is completely necessary and required by the state. Norton's assessment is \$934,439.

Mr. Lopes said that there has been about a \$1M increase from last year in the overall budget. He said that 3% raises have been budgeted for. He also stated that 11 positions (3 teachers, 2 maintenance, 8 support staff) have been eliminated for the upcoming year.

Mr. Thomas expressed his displeasure in having to decrease the Norton Public Schools' budget by about \$300K, while increasing the Southeastern Regional Schools' budget by \$65K. He also recognized that the \$65K increase is almost entirely state mandated.

Mr. Lopes said that the way that the state formulates how much money each community is required to pay has to do with the community's *ability* to pay, not enrollment.

Mr. Helmreich made the suggestion that having a handout that showed some comparative data between the costs of the past few years and present would be helpful.

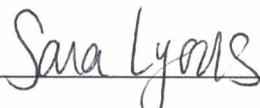
**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:30pm. The Water/Sewer Department will be present to discuss Enterprise Funds.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:10pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary

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