

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

Present: Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Vice-Chair, Michael Thomas; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf; Paul Helmreich; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the April 2, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. Planning Board Articles - Mr. Gabriel, of the Planning Board, presented the Planning Board's 2 proposals of zoning changes, each of which are separate Articles on the Warrant.

1st Proposal (Article 23) – the request is for the zoning of an area north of West Main Street, from Park Lane to Shirley Avenue (approx.), to be changed from Industrial to Village Commercial. Mr. Gabriel defined the following zoning terms as such:

- *Commercial* – just for business; single-family homes, duplex, multi-families are not allowed.
- *Village Commercial* – commercial as well as residential; some businesses are allowed by right, some by special permit.
- *Residential* – residences, can have in-home businesses if they stay below a set size.

Mr. Gabriel said the reason for the request of change in zoning is that it is unlikely that there is any industrial use for the area.

Mr. Tarantino expressed his concerns about re-zoning the area to Village Commercial because the area consists primarily of residential homes. He questioned why the Planning Board doesn't instead zone the three lots that are on West Main Street as Village Commercial and zone the others Residential. He said that he wouldn't want to see an area that is comprised mostly of family homes become busy with traffic from a business opening up on one of those streets. Mr. Gabriel said that he would discuss those concerns with the Planning Board.

2nd Proposal (Article 22) – there are 2 alternatives to this request for re-zoning. It involves a mixed area with Harvey Street at the south, and Barrows Street at the north. The area is presently zoned Commercial and the proposal is to change it to Village Commercial. Mr. Gabriel said that changing the area to Village Commercial allows more opportunity for people to use their property.

Mr. Gabriel said that the Planning Board will be having an Open Forum regarding the 2 Articles on May 6, 2008.

Mr. Thomas recognized that the 2 proposals seem to be trying to align the areas with what is presently happening in town and questioned whether or not the Planning Board would be proposing to do the same in other areas of town. Mr. Gabriel said that it is a possibility.

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B. South Shore Mill Works (Article 2) – Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with the original petition letter and a map of the concerned area. South Shore Mill Works (SSM) is requesting a discontinuance of a portion of Maple Street as a public way. SSM is constructing a new driveway that will open to John Scott Blvd., and as a result, are concerned that public drivers will use their new driveway as a means to cut through from Maple Street to John Scott Blvd. They are asking for the continuance as a way of avoiding this situation. A barrier would also be erected at the point where SSM's property begins. Mr. Purcell said that a public hearing is not necessary. He said that the Selectmen will refer this matter to the Planning Board for a report. Mr. Purcell stated that it is important to retain the existing easement for the waterline and other public utilities. He said that none of the Public Safety officials have expressed any concern over this proposal. The type of barrier to be erected is still being discussed.

C. Review of Town Warrant Articles – Mr. Purcell reviewed each Article as follows:

- Article 1 – Annual Chapter 90 allocation (Improvement of town roads) – Mr. Purcell said that he is very confident that he will have a firm number before Town Meeting. He said that it looks like it will be for around \$400K. He said that this money couldn't go into the general government budget, and that it has to go towards improving town roads. Mr. Purcell also noted that Chapter 90 is a general law, not session law, so by Town Meeting it may be named another number (not 90).
- Article 2 – Discontinuance of Maple Street (As discussed above).
- Article 3 - Easement from Mansfield Bank -
- Article 4 – Election Machines - \$8,300 – Mr. Purcell will get more information on what exactly it will be used for (election machines, software). This would not be considered a Capital expense because it is not \$10K or over.
- Article 5 – Second Phase of Triennial Revaluation - \$50K was appropriated last year; there are unexpended balances of \$5K and \$7,750; therefore the balance of \$37,250 would be requested for revaluation.
- Article 6- Norton Historical Commission – revolving fund for Historical Commission products (coloring books, etc.), with a maximum of \$4K.
- Article 7 – Board of Health – revolving fund for the Home Composting Bin Distribution Program, with a maximum of \$2K.
- Article 8 – Highway Department – revolving fund for recycling program, with a maximum of \$10K.
- Article 9 – Fire Department - revolving fund for the Fire Department's Hazardous Materials program, with a maximum of \$10K.
- Article 10 – Norton Cable Access, Inc. – revolving fund with a maximum of \$75K.

- Article 11 – Early Childhood Program – transfer money from Early Childhood Program revolving fund to Chapter 44 fund, OR continue a revolving fund with a maximum of \$64K.
- Article 12 – Full Day Kindergarten Program - transfer money from Full Day Kindergarten Program revolving fund to Chapter 71 fund, OR continue a revolving fund with a maximum of \$177,545.00.
- Article 13 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – funds to support this.
- Article 14 – Illicit Discharge – amendment of town by-laws to include the Board of Health in the notifications.
- Article 15 – Water Department FY '09 budget
- Article 16 – Sewer Department Tri-town agreement – allows the drafting of legislation to **create** the Tri-town agreement.
- Article 17 – Sewer Department Tri –town agreement – allows town to **take part** in the Tri-town agreement.
- Article 18 – Sewer Enterprise Fund
- Article 19 – Capital Improvements
- Article 20 – Capital Budget
- Article 21 – Town's Operating Budget
- Article 22 – Planning Board – Rezoning (as discussed above).
- Article 23 - Planning Board – Rezoning (as discussed above).

D. Budget Line Items -

Line 199 – Postage – presently spending approx. \$2,500 on meter rental and repair; Mr. Purcell would like to purchase a postage meter machine for approx. \$4,000, including the repair contract. This would save the town \$2,100/year. Mr. Purcell said that as long as the town purchases the machine, this line item could most likely be level funded.

Line 158 – Tax Title Foreclosure – the town will have a land auction at the end of May/early June, with 30 days for closings. The funds go to the general fund and are then transferred to the Capital Improvements fund. Mr. Purcell is recommending \$40K for this line item for FY '09.

III. Other

Mr. DeLuca asked Mr. Purcell how the amount cut (\$156,694) from the Library was determined. Mr. Purcell responded that it was "to achieve balance" in the budget.

Mr. Helmreich said that, in reviewing the budget, he noted that over \$25K is spend in dues and seminars/conferences for the various departments and committees in town government. He questioned the need for all of them. A discussion ensued. Mr. Zawasky also questioned the money spent on periodicals and subscriptions. Mr. Purcell encouraged the FinCom to make inquiries about this to each department.

Next Meeting

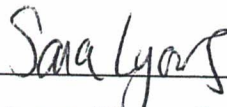
The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008 at 7:30pm. The School Committee and the Communications Department will be present.

Mr. Purcell said that he would try to schedule the Sewer Department to be present at the FinCom meeting on April 16, 2008.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary