

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

**Absent:** Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

There were not any minutes for review.

**II. New Business**

**A. Communications Department** – Ms. Charlene Fisk, the Communications Director, discussed their budget as follows:

The department is presently working well below minimum staffing with 4 people, as well as one person on maternity leave. Their hope is to have 2 people on a shift at all times. They are proposing to hire 3 new people. Only one will be a full-year employee, as the other 2 will be phased in, as the ability to train is available. Ms. Fisk said that this year's budget is considerably over on their Overtime hours.

Mr. Thomas asked about conferences and seminars, questioning which are mandated/necessary for certification. She said that each employee is allotted a mandated \$400. It was also said that each employee has to be CPR certified as well as 911 certified. Ms. Fisk said that the department is in desperate need of training, that it is extremely difficult for anyone to attend training because they are so short-staffed. The contract allows for 40 hours per year, per employee. She said that the uniform and clothing allowance is mandated by contract. It was mentioned that this includes the cleaning of such uniforms.

Mr. Helmreich noted that the most significant change in the budget was Telephone Communications (going from \$41K to \$50K). Ms. Fisk said that it was for phone usage as well as the repair/maintenance for all general government phones, not just the Communications Department's phones.

**B. School Budget** – Dr. Ansay & Mr. O'Neil provided the FinCom with a handout, outlining the additional \$ 371K in cuts made to the school's budget.

Dr. Ansay noted that, with these latest cuts, there has been a total of \$914,392 cut from level service for FY '09. She also stated that the budget for FY '09 is less than the budget was for FY '06.

A discussion ensued on how to remedy the fiscal state of the town.

Mr. O'Neil said that he feels confident that the results of contract negotiations will not cause more cuts within the school budget.

Dr. Ansay summarized what the impact of the cuts would be on the schools: Fewer classroom teachers, larger class sizes (some Middle School classes will have over 30 students), inadequate technology, fewer building repairs and custodians, reduced special services, fewer teaching supplies, and athletics will be reduced significantly. Dr. Ansay said that there will be additional user fees placed on the families.

Dr. Ansay said that some of the maintenance contracts that the School Dept. has do contain preventative components, but not all.

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Mr. DeLuca asked how many of the people who are being laid off currently are receiving health insurance as a part of their contract. He pointed out that the schools would be spending approx. \$12K less, per employee, from benefits alone. Mr. O'Neil said that he would provide the FinCom with the amount of employees who are being laid off that also receive benefits. Mr. Tarantino told Dr. Ansay and Mr. O'Neil that Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Barletta are the School Department' contacts for the FinCom, as decided at a previous meeting.

### **III. Old Business**

**A.** Transfer Request - \$40K for Gasoline Acct. for the Highway Department.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to transfer \$40K from the Reserve Account to account number 1-940-540-5480 for the purpose of augmenting the Highway Department Gasoline Account. Second by Mr. Bouchard. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

It was noted that the balance in the Reserve Account is now \$93K after this Gasoline Account transfer.

**B.** Mr. DeLuca informed the FinCom that he had met with representatives of the Library regarding the significant cut in their budget for FY '09. He said that they will be present at the FinCom meeting on Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the impact that this cut will have.

**C.** Mr. DeLuca updated the FinCom on the happenings of the Capital Improvements Committee. He said that there have been \$819K in requests, on which the Committee will most likely be voting on next week.

**D.** Mr. Tarantino reported that the New Hope Shelter is currently looking for donations of home furnishings. If anyone is interested in donating, or for additional information, contact Judy in the FD at 508-285-0248.

### **Next Meeting**

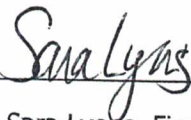
The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2008 at 7:30pm. Representatives of the Library will be present.

The FinCom will also meet on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary