

**Finance Committee Meeting
May 5, 2008
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

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 7:32 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the April 23, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the April 28, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Mr. William Gouveia, the newly appointed Town Moderator, addressed the FinCom saying that he intends to fill the 2 vacant seats on the Committee. He requested that members who are up for re-appointment (Mr. Tarantino, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. DeLuca) send him a letter of intent by June 1, 2008. Regarding Town Meeting - Mr. Gouveia will require that any person that wants to amend the budget will also need to balance the budget; therefore, if someone makes the suggestion to give more funding to one area of the budget, that person must also say where the money will be subtracted from. He also requested that all FinCom share their thoughts, opinions, and knowledge to aid in the townspeople making informed, educated decisions.

III. Old Business

Discussion on budget items –

Mr. Bouchard mentioned that, in reviewing the budget for the Highway Department, there is a line item titled "Sand/Salt" (Road Materials) in the amount of \$60K. He suggested using a couple thousand of that amount to have signs made saying "No Salt Area – Drive Carefully" and then put the rest of the funds for that line item back into the budget. Mr. Tarantino said that he would request that, for Wednesday's meeting, Mr. Purcell provide the FinCom with a breakdown of what the "Road Materials" line item encompasses.

A discussion took place on how much the School Department budget was actually cut. Mr. DeLuca pointed out that the School Department is saying that it is taking a \$914K cut. The actual cut was \$370K, but the School Department also anticipated that they would be receiving \$544K more from the State, which when added yields the \$914K.

Account Balances –

Capital Improvements – balance before a Town Meeting vote - \$734K; if Town Meeting votes in favor of Article 20 in the amount of \$185,606, then the new balance will be \$548,394.

Stabilization – Mr. Purcell will provide this balance on Wednesday evening.

Other -

Mr. Tarantino urged the members of the FinCom to freely share their personal views at Town Meeting, even if they may not agree with the recommendation that the FinCom is making. He said that members are required to identify themselves as a member of the FinCom. Mr. Tarantino said it is the job of the Chairman of the Finance Committee to present the Committee's vote on each Article.

A discussion took place concerning the Town Clerk's position. Mr. Helmreich suggested that the topic be further explored.

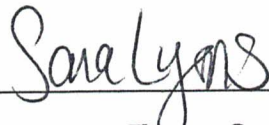
Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Lyons". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary