

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 8, 2008
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairman, Michael Thomas; Vice-Chair, Wayne Graf; Robert Bouchard; Thomas DeLuca, Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFawn; Lee Tarantino; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Pasquale Barletta; Lynn Regan.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:40 pm.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Graf to approve the July 14, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. McFawn abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. New member Cheryl McFawn was introduced to the board.

B. Reorganization of the Board:

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to nominate Mr. Thomas as Chairman. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to nominate Mr. Graf as Vice-Chairman. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

C. Warrant For the Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Purcell reviewed the warrant as follows:

Article 1 - an unpaid bill for \$47.20

Article 2 - separation expenses in the amount of more than \$51K

Article 3 - transfer of money to supplement the FY '09 Operating budget (for dam inspections, funds for energy accts.) Mr. Purcell said he will ideally have a Free Cash figure in time for the town meeting.

Article 4 - \$132,200 from the FY '08 Land Auction is proposed to be transferred into the Capital Improvement fund. Mr. Helmreich made mention that the Sun Chronicle newspaper stated that the sales were finalized in FY '09. Mr. Purcell said that he is very confident that that is not the case and that he will look into it.

Article 5 - Fire Dept. Shed/Station Build-Out

Article 6 - a petition article in which the Library is seeking \$134K from the Stabilization acct.

Article 7 - to amend the Town Charter to change the town clerk's position from an elected position to an appointed position.

Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 - Water/Sewer (covered further by Mr. Knapp)

Articles 13 & 14 - Conservation Commission (covered further by Ms. Carlino)

Article 15 - Trench safety - by-law does not have to be adopted, can authorize the Town Manager and/or Selectmen to designate overseers (Building Inspector & Highway Superintendent).

Article 16 - zoning - this is a petition article in which the Chateau restaurant is seeking add'l. property.

Article 17 & 18 - zoning - these 2 articles were not passed in the Spring Town Meeting, they have since been modified. Mr. Purcell said that the Public Hearing for these 2 articles is September 23.

D. Mr. Duane Knapp of the Water/Sewer Department addressed the FinCom regarding Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 as follows:

Article 8 – Mr. Knapp reviewed a handout listing additional funds needed for FY '09 for utilities and chemicals. The amount, \$209,900, is being requested to be transferred from the Water Surplus Account.

Article 9 – Well #3 rehab. project – the bid is higher than anticipated and the additional funds needed, \$175K, is being requested to be transferred from the Water Surplus Account.

Article 10 – Sewer charges – Mr. Fran Yanuskiewicz, of the engineering firm Western & Sampson, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 10. He explained that this petition article is to allow the town of Norton to charge the "Bank/Campenelli" property for capacity as well as usage. Presently sewer customers are only charged based on usage, but the town pays Mansfield for upgrades, etc. to the plant based on capacity. He said this would lessen the load on the other users in town.

E. Ms. Carlino of the Conservation Commission addressed the FinCom regarding Articles 13 & 14 as follows:

Article 13 – 3 parcels of land adjacent to the Three-Mile River to be dedicated as "open space/conservation land".

Article 14 – 2 parcels of land adjacent to the Canoe River to be dedicated as "open space/conservation land".

Ms. Carlino also spoke on the subject of the Reservoir Dam inspections. She said that \$5K per year would be needed for the Phase I dam inspections (\$2,500 each inspection). It was suggested that she put this \$5K itemized in the Conservation Commission's operating budget for FY '10.

III. Other Business

Mr. Thomas said he would like to form a sub-committee, to meet after the October Town Meeting, to discuss the long-range plan of the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to allow Mr. Thomas and Mr. Graf to sign bills. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2008 at 6:30pm.

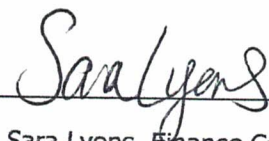
From 6:30 – 7:30 the FinCom will have a training session for new members as well as anyone else interested.

At 7:30 the regular meeting will begin.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary