

Finance Committee Meeting
January 14, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2009

NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Cheryl McFaun; Lynn Regan; Philip Zawasky.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes (reviewed at the end of the meeting)

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the October 29, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. Mr. Purcell stated that the town's snow budget is already over budget about \$33K (not including snow/ice removal inventory still left).

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to authorize the town to expend funds in excess of the budgeted amount for snow removal. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

B. Mr. Purcell discussed upcoming possible cuts on Local Aid by Governor Patrick. He referenced a Boston Globe article, that he handed out copies of, that reported that the House and Senate would be giving the Governor the authority to make cuts in local aid.

Mr. Purcell said that he anticipates that the specific amounts of cuts to each town will be announced no earlier than January 23rd, when the Massachusetts Municipalities Conference takes place.

C. Mr. Purcell said he attended the meeting that the Norton Public Library board and staff had with the state library licensure board. They are seeking a waiver so as not to lose certification. He said that the Governor's administration has decided to lift the existing cap of allowing only 65 waivers per year. The Library has not yet heard the outcome of the meeting.

D. Upcoming Budget

Mr. Helmreich suggested that the FinCom and Town manager plan multiple budget plans for the upcoming year. He feels that the townspeople should be shown what the budget would look like with and without an override, and what cuts to services would have to be made. He wants to make the options very clear to the townspeople and what the implications will be on the various town departments. Mr. Helmreich said that the committee should be able to show what a 'level-services' budget would cost and look like, and then show the cuts that would need to be made.

E. Special Town Meeting Articles

Article 1 – Unpaid bills – about \$62 for a legal notice for the FinCom public hearing for the fall '08 Special Town Meeting.

Article 2 – Town Clerk – a question of whether to extend Worker's Compensation benefits to the Town Clerk. It was stated that this should be limited to the Town Clerk and not other elected officials. Then Mr. DeLuca pointed out that the Town Clerk is the only compensated town official who is elected, so this would only effect that position anyhow.

Article 3 – Salary plan (this article may be dropped)

Article 4 – Operating Budget Supplements

Article 5 – Easement to Water Tower – would allow cell phone workers to access the water tower by using an easement on the Senior Center property.

Articles 6 & 7 – land swap issues

Article 8 – Arrowhead Village – this article may be removed and go to a ballot question. Arrowhead Village residents have petitioned to have the 3 streets in their neighborhood become public ways.

The Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009.

Next Meeting

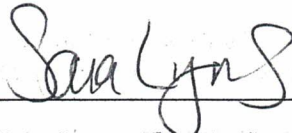
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 21, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Representatives from the Water/Sewer Department may be in attendance to discuss their articles.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Second by Mr. Bouchard. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary