

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**March 11, 2009**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

**Absent:** Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Lynn Regan.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30 pm.

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MAY 29 2009

NORTON TOWN CLERK

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the March 4, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Graf and Mr. Bouchard abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

**Public Hearing Discussion -**

Mr. Tarantino brought up the possibility of having the public hearing before the FinCom has voted on the budget, as opposed to after when the public hearing usually is held.

Mr. Helmreich said that he strongly agrees with the idea, but that the final budget is not ready to be presented in time to have an earlier hearing.

Mr. Tarantino feels that the FinCom could discuss all of the budget but just not vote on it until after the public hearing.

Mr. Barletta suggested announcing what the FinCom will be discussing each week, so if any townspeople were interested in attending the meeting and asking questions/expressing concerns they could do so.

Mr. Thomas suggested having a preliminary vote on the budget prior to the public hearing, possibly putting this preliminary budget online for the townspeople to view, and then having a final vote after the public hearing.

Mr. Tarantino said that by definition, a public hearing is to be held before a vote because if not it would be difficult for citizens to state their concerns and feelings if the FinCom had already taken a vote.

Mr. Thomas said that for now the FinCom will proceed as it has before, having the public hearing later in the budget season after a preliminary vote on the budget has been taken.

**Fixed General Government Expenses** (provided by Mr. Purcell, pages for budget book)

- A. Reserve Fund (132) - \$150K has been recommended for appropriation.
- B. Legal Services (151) - \$80K is being recommended for appropriation for now, will most likely be more. Mr. Helmreich said that he would like to see a more realistic base figure. Mr. Purcell said that he anticipates that the number will be less and that he feels good with the \$80K.
- C. Tax Title Foreclosure (158) - \$40K is being recommended for appropriation, there will not be a land auction this year, Mr. Purcell will discuss further later on.
- D. Elections (162) - \$17,782 is being recommended for appropriation; this is much less than last year because this figure is dependent upon the amount of elections being held in a particular year.
- E. SE REG Plan & Econ Dev. (176) – this is being recommended for level-funding at \$2,914.
- F. Town Report (195) - \$3K is being recommended for appropriation, to cover the cost of the printing of the Annual Town Report.
- G. Postage – All Dept. (199) – Mr. Purcell said that there will be a rate increase for postage, but is unsure of what the exact amount will be. He is recommending level-funding at \$43,279.
- H. Sealer Weights and Measures (244) – the recommendation is level-funded at \$2K.
- I. Street Lighting (425) – the recommendation is level-funded at \$102,000. Mr. Purcell said that he is planning to look at the possibility of a new generation supplier.

- J. Sanitary Landfill (438) – this is for monitoring the methane gas and ground water leaches. The recommendation is level-funded at \$3,956. Mr. Purcell said that the site has had good test results. These tests are a 30-year requirement after capping a landfill.

The total being recommended for appropriation for Fixed General Government Expenses is \$444,931.00.

***Miscellaneous Town Officers and Board Expenses*** (provided by Mr. Purcell, pages for budget book)

- A. Finance Committee (131) - \$3,160 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10. The FinCom will discuss this further at their next meeting.
- B. Web Committee (156) – \$100 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10.
- C. Zoning Board of Appeals (177) - \$300 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10.
- D. Tree Warden (294) - \$2,000 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10. If the revolving fund is approved then that will add to this.
- E. Historical Commission (691) - \$300 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10.
- F. Memorial & Veteran's Day (692) - \$1,750 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10.
- G. Historical District Comm. (693) - \$300 is being recommended for appropriation for FY10.

The total being recommended for appropriation for Misc. Town Officials and Board Expenses is \$7,910.00.

***Chapter 90***

The formula for the allocation of Chapter 90 funds was reviewed by Mr. Purcell per handout. The funds are allocated according to the following factors: road miles in town (counts for 58.33%), population in town (20.83%), and employment within the town (20.83%).

This is something that is separate from the general budget. There is a separate article at Town Meeting for the town to participate in the program. Norton's allocation for FY09 was \$421,406.

**III. Announcements**

The South Eastern Vocational Technical School's school committee will be having a public hearing at the school library on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, with a snow day of March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If a second night is needed, the meeting will continue on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

On Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 there is an Open House at the Fire Headquarters.

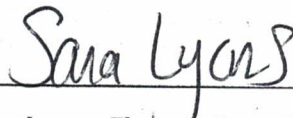
**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009 at 7:30pm.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous.  
**Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



**Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary**