

Finance Committee Meeting
April 8, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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

Absent: Robert Bouchard; Jackie Desrochers.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30 pm.

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I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Barletta to approve the April 6, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

NORTON TOWN CLERK

II. New Business

Dr. Ansay, School Superintendent, and the School Committee addressed the Finance Committee regarding the FY10 school budget. Mr. Tom Golotta of the School Committee reviewed the FY10 budget stating that in order to have a level-funded budget it was necessary to make \$746,543 in cuts. The total FY10 budget being proposed is \$22,560,320, comprising of \$13,094,617 from Chapter 70 funds and \$9,465,703 from the town. He went on to explain that the cuts being made came from cutting 4.5 teachers, reducing building repairs and supplies, cutting paraprofessionals and tutors, cutting a coach and a traffic guard, reducing the amount of professional development and summer clerical hours, among other areas. He said that fees for sports and activities are being increased. Mr. Golotta also listed the fixed costs of the school budget, including office expenses, medical supplies, salaries, legal fees, out-of-district tuition, as well as additional areas.

Mr. Golotta pointed out that the most recent Norton High School MCAS scores were better overall than Easton, Foxboro, Foxboro Charter, and Mansfield High Schools.

He noted that the Chapter 70 State funds have been decreasing in recent years.

Mr. Golotta said that the school system is involved in the Energy Education Program which has saved the town \$585,565 since December 2005.

Dr. Ansay said that contract negotiations have been completed and the result is that employees will be paying an additional 5% in health benefits and will receive a salary increase of 2%. She said that in 3 years the health benefit split will be at 75/25.

Dr. Ansay said that the Special Education budget is up 29.37% for FY10 because of more significant needs of the students as well as out-of-district tuitions. Mr. Golotta stated that there is a \$39K deductible for each out-of-district placement.

Dr. Ansay said that she anticipates that Norton will receive funds from the Special Education stimulus money and plans to hire a consultant to advise the school system on how to bring back out-of-district placements as well as possibly establishing programs for more severe special needs students that other towns could send their students to. Dr. Ansay also noted that this stimulus money could not be used for items already budgeted for.

It was noted that the salary budget line was reduced by about \$250K and that money was put towards Special Education. A few FinCom members stated their concern about the needs of regular education students' needs being met.

Dr. Ansay said that she does not anticipate losing any grant funds as a result of a decline in interest/enrollment of Full-day Kindergarten.

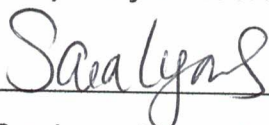
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary