

Finance Committee Meeting
May 4, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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

Absent: Mr. Bouchard, Ms. Regan, and Mr. Tarantino.

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. Barletta to approve the April 22, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. McFaun abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Motion was made by Mr. Barletta to transfer a total of \$11K to Sewer Department accounts for salaries and overtime, broken up as follows: \$4,538.76 to account #001-440-510-5110, and \$6,461.24 to account #001-440-510-5131. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

B. Planning Board – EMC signs

Mr. Charles Gabriel and Ms. Joanne Haracz of the Planning Board addressed the Finance Committee regarding Article 19, the regulation of EMC (Electronic Message Center) signs. Mr. Gabriel said that there have been some changes made to the article since the last time he addressed the FinCom. The changes include: allowing EMC signs in the Village Commercial sections of town; requiring black to be the background color of the sign; the rate of change for the text on the sign would be 10 seconds; and the brightness of the sign would be measured by a light meter.

Mr. DeLuca said that he spoke with some dealers/manufacturers of the signs and was told that the signs are designed to run on the least amount of light possible, which increases the longevity of the sign, and that there is an automatic control for how much light is emitted. He feels that it is unrealistic that the light being emitted would be measurable by a photometer, because of outside factors, and that this component of the article should be deleted. Instead, he feels that a requirement of any business wishing to have an EMC should get a certificate of compliance from the manufacturer stating the brightness of light being emitted from the sign.

Mr. Thomas stated that he disagrees with the prohibition of a static image.

C. Local Aid

Mr. Purcell reviewed a handout outlining FY2010 Local Aid estimates, noting that local aid amounts have yet to be determined. He stated that Charter School costs will be up \$119,102 for FY10.

D. Special Town Meeting Articles

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills - \$821.50 for Legal Services and \$250.00 for a medical expense for a school employee for a total of \$1,071.50.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the transfer of \$1,071.50 from Free Cash for Article 1, Unpaid Bills. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 6 – Lease for Hill Street Landfill Property

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 6. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

E. Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the proposed FY2010 Operating Budget will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

F. Annual Town Meeting

Article 19 – Regulation of EMC signs

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend Article 19. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Discussion followed. Mr. Thomas stated that although he agrees with some regulation of EMC signs, he does not agree with all the specifics. Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Helmreich said that they could not support the article as written, they feel it needs to be modified. The FinCom discussed each component of the article and agreed on the following:

Item 1 – delete the words "either static or"

Item 2 – delete the words "however the background of the message text shall be black"

Item 3 – delete

Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 – agree with wording

Item 10 – the FinCom feels it is necessary to require the business to obtain a certificate of compliance from the manufacturer regarding the brightness of light emitted.

Item 11 – delete

Vote: All opposed. **Motion fails.**

The FinCom encourages the Planning Board to come back again before Town Meeting to further discuss this article.

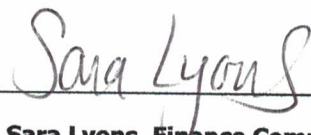
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary