

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 23, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

APR 09 2010

RECEIVED

Present: Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFaun; Lynn Regan; Lee Tarantino; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Chairman, Wayne Graf; Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the September 21, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard and Ms. Regan abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Town Meeting Warrant Articles –

Mr. Purcell reviewed the articles with the FinCom as follows:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills in the amount of \$7,761.71 – Mr. Purcell said that the funds for this article would come from Free Cash, which will be certified by the end of this week. He anticipates that the certified amount will be approximately \$750K.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend article 1 in moving \$7,761.71 from Free Cash to Unpaid Bills. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Helmreich said that he would vote against this because the Free Cash amount is not certified yet, and that he would prefer to table the vote on any articles that would be funded by Free Cash. **Motion** made by Mr. Tarantino to table the vote on this article. Seconded by Mr. Bouchard. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 2 – Water Department Administrative Strategic Plan – The funds for this article would come from the Water Surplus Account. Mr. Helmreich said that he feels this plan is worth going forward with in order to get a 'blueprint' of operations for both the present Water Superintendent as well as future Water Superintendents. Both Mr. Tarantino and Mr. DeLuca agreed.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 2 in the amount of \$10K, coming from the Water Surplus Account. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining – Mr. Purcell said that there may not be an action to take on this article if an agreement has not yet been reached by the night of Town Meeting.

Article 4 – Operating Budget Supplements – the funding for this article would come from Free Cash, so the FinCom did not take a vote tonight.

Articles 5 & 6 – Mr. Purcell said that there are not any recommendations for capital items presently and that he is not recommending any action, but is keeping this article on the warrant in case of emergency.

Article 7 – Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement #45 – this article is requesting \$10K from Free Cash, so no vote was taken.

Article 8 – Affordable Housing – Habitat For Humanity

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 8. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Tarantino and Mr. Helmreich expressed their support of this article. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 9 – Salary Plan

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 9. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 10 – Job Classification

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 10. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Purcell stated that he plans to revamp both the salary plan as well as the job classification plan. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. Motion carries.

Article 12 – acceptance of Rubin Drive as a public way

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 12. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 13 – acceptance of Beverly Lane as a public way

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 13. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 14 – Meals Tax

Mr. Purcell said that if this is voted for at town meeting, the town could begin collecting the money from it by January. If passed, it puts the tax into effect on the first day of the next quarter. The tax would go from 6.25% to 7%. Mr. Helmreich expressed his support for this article in saying that this increase in tax would add an additional \$0.30 on a \$40 bill.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 14. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with the exception of Mr. Bouchard. **Motion carries.**

Article 15 – Hotel Tax

If this passes the hotel tax would go from 4% to 6%. It would take effect on January 1st.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 15. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 11 – Wetlands Bylaw

Mr. Purcell said that this article may not go forward as an action article. He said that Ms. Carlino and the Conservation Commission are making changes to the proposed bylaw. Mr. Helmreich said he would like as much information on this article, especially the changes, before voting whether or not to support it. He suggested waiting on the vote. Mr. DeLuca said he'd like to hear the information in 'layman's' terms. Mr. Purcell said that Ms. Carlino has a summary of the changes made.

Mr. Purcell stated that a land issue, that was going to be a warrant article, will no longer because it has been found that the issue does not require a town meeting vote.

III. Other Business

The Finance Committee is requesting that Ms. Jennifer Carlino, of the Conservation Commission, be present at the Wednesday, September 30th meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Bouchard. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sara Lyons

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary