

**Finance Committee Meeting****November 2, 2009****7:30 PM****Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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**Present:** Chairman, Wayne Graf; Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Paul Helmreich; Lynn Regan; Michael Thomas (late arrival); Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Absent:** Jackie Desrochers; Cheryl McFaun; Lee Tarantino.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. to approve the , 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. .  
Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

Mr. Purcell stated that following the October Town Meeting, it was found that the Water budget was out of balance and therefore the new tax rate could not be set. He said there is a surplus of more than \$1.7M in the Water Surplus account.

**Article 1 - Mr. Duane Knapp, Water Superintendent**, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 1 on the Special Town Meeting warrant, a request for a transfer to the Water budget. He stated that, on average, the Water Dept. puts \$200-\$250K into the Water Surplus account each year, and as Mr. Purcell has stated, the account presently has a balance of over \$1.7M. This transfer request is to cover costs until the new water rates are set.

Mr. Knapp also stated that he anticipates that the new water rates will not be in effect until July 1, 2010. He said the reasons for this include chemical and electricity prices, bond payments, as well as revenue being significantly lower.

Mr. DeLuca questioned why this was not addressed before the October Special Town Meeting. Mr. Knapp said that in the past, funds have been transferred from the Water Department account to the Water Surplus account without Town Meeting approval. He said that transferring in the other direction is a new action and needs the approval at Town Meeting. Mr. Purcell explained that it was simply overlooked until now.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$644,870, to be transferred from the Water surplus account to the Water Department account. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor.  
**Motion carries.**

**Article 2- Mr. Tim Gibling, Selectman**, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 2, which seeks to amend the Town Charter to change the Town Clerk's position from an elected position to an appointed one. He feels that switching this would allow the town to find the most qualified person for the position.

Mr. Helmreich said that he supports this article, stating that he feels the position needs to be filled by someone who is very qualified and that the position should be full-time.

Mr. Barletta said that his concern is that an appointed person could be swayed to "control" elections.

Mr. Robert Kimball, Selectman, said that per Town Charter, if an appointed person, after a 6-month period, is found to be doing a poor job, they could be let go.

Mr. Helmreich pointed out that the Town Clerk is not the only office involved in the election process, that the Board of Registrars is also a part of the process.

Mr. Graf stated that he was in favor of the article, pointing out that an appointed position allows for a larger pool of candidates.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 2. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor.  
**Motion carries.**

**Article 3 – Local Housing Partnership**

**Mr. Kimball** said that an article similar to this one was originally on the October Special Town Meeting warrant but it could not go forward because 3 of the land parcels involved were not compliant with the town bylaw. This article would merely "enable" the Local Housing Partnership to pursue developing these parcels of land in partnership with Habitat For Humanity.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 3. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor.  
**Motion carries.**

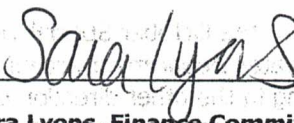
**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Yellé School cafeteria, prior to Town Meeting.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous.  
**Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



**Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary**