

## Finance Committee Meeting

March 15, 2010

7:30 PM

Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

NORTON TOWN CLERK

APR 09 2010

RECEIVED

**Present:** Chairman, Wayne Graf; Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Michael Flaherty; Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFaun; Michael Thomas; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Absent:** Robert Bouchard; Lee Tarantino.

### Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

### I. Approval of Minutes

**Motion** was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the March 15, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. **Vote:** All in favor, with Mr. Graf abstaining. **Motion carries.**

### II. New Business

Dr. Ansay, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Kevin O'Neil, School Committee Chairman, addressed the FinCom regarding Articles 4 and 24 on the Town Meeting warrant as follows:

**Article 4** – Dr. Ansay explained that this article would give the authorization to take in tuition payments for nonresident students, as well as students in foster care, in a separate account to be expended by the schools for expenses incurred in providing education for these students.

**Article 24** – Feasibility Study for NHS – This article would authorize the funding for the study. The study would make the town eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Dr. Ansay said that the public is welcome and encouraged to tour Norton High School on either March 23<sup>rd</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> to look at the current status of the building.

Dr. Ansay said that Mount Vernon Architectural did a feasibility study in 2002. The report stated that there were many areas in which the building needed improvements, including heating, plumbing, and electrical. Dr. Ansay pointed out that those areas have not been improved since then, therefore, those areas still need to be upgraded as well as others. She mentioned that the study would pay for civil engineers, environmental engineers, hazardous materials experts, and acoustical professionals, as well as various schematic designs of the changes and upgrades.

Dr. Ansay said that the Norton High School building Committee voted up to \$800K for the feasibility study. She said that the study would be more in the range of \$570K and that she anticipates the Committee re-voting to reflect this more accurate number.

Dr. Ansay said that the feasibility stage of this proposed project is eligible for a 54% reimbursement. Mr. O'Neil said that the actual project is eligible for an even higher rate of reimbursement, around 60%.

Mr. DeLuca asked what the cost of the actual project would be, stating that it would be an incredible waste if the town funded the feasibility study and then didn't have the funds to complete the actual improvements.

Mr. Thomas said that he feels that the school committee should meet with the town manager to figure out how exactly the actual project would be paid for and what the effect on the town's budget it would have.

Mr. Helmreich questioned what the timeframe for the project would be and long the feasibility study is valid for.

### III. Other Business

**Local Aid Estimates** – Mr. Purcell said that the projected lowered amount of local aid would result in a loss of \$544,799 in revenue to the town, bringing the projected total for FY11 to \$931,210.

Mr. Purcell mentioned the possibility of going with another health plan, with higher deductibles, and noted that it would yield a net savings of almost \$500K.

**Town Meeting warrant articles –**

**Article 2** – Chapter 90 Transportation Aid Program – Mr. Purcell said that he thinks that the amount for this article will be about \$420K, but there will not be a definite amount in time to vote on for Town Meeting.

**Article 3** – acceptance of Rubin Drive. **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend article 3. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**Article 4** – Schools, Chapter 71 – **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend article 4. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Purcell said that **Articles 22** (Sewer Enterprise), **25** (Water Budget), and **29** (Stabilization Fund) have all been withdrawn from the warrant.

Mr. Purcell requested that any questions the FinCom may have for Mr. Gabriel, Town Planner, regarding the zoning articles be submitted before the public hearing.

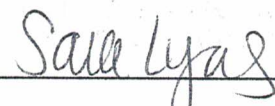
**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010 at 7:30pm.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary