

Finance Committee Meeting
March 22, 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; Robert Bouchard; Michael Flaherty; Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFaun; Michael Thomas; Lee Tarantino; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Jackie Desrochers.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the March 15, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Tarantino abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

The Finance Committee members received the budget binders for FY11.

Mr. Purcell reviewed the Town Manager's recommendations for **Fixed and Shared Expenses** (see votes for these categories below). The total recommended amount is \$11,806,021. Mr. Purcell said that this is a fairly firm number, with the exception of a possible bond addition (which he said is unlikely). This FY11 recommended amount is a decrease of about \$60K from FY10.

Mr. Helmreich asked Mr. Purcell if the federal health plan would have any effect on the health insurance piece of the Fixed & Shared amount. Mr. Purcell said that he anticipates no impact on the expenditure part for the town.

Mr. Purcell reviewed the Town Manager's recommendations for **Fixed and Misc. General Government Expenses** (see votes for these categories below). The total recommended amount is \$426,625, but this does not include an appropriation for Elections. Mr. Purcell said that he thinks that once Elections are factored in, the total amount will be about the same as FY10.

Mr. Purcell reviewed the Town Manager's recommendations for **Miscellaneous Town Officers and Board Expenses** (see votes for these categories below). The total recommended amount is \$7,200. Mr. Tarantino said he would like to see the Industrial Development Committee be given \$300 to start up with.

Budget Votes –

Fixed and Shared -

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Maturing Debt (account #711) in the amount of \$1,853,261. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Interest (account #750) in the amount of \$668,707. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Employee Benefits (account #910) in the amount of \$8,567,181. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Unemployment Compensation (account #911) in the amount of \$180,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Miscellaneous (account #940) in the amount of \$536,873. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Fixed and Misc. Gen Gov -

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Reserve Fund (account #132) in the amount of \$150,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Legal Services (account #151) in the amount of \$80,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Helmreich said that this amount is exceeded every year and that he feels it should be increased to at least \$100K. **Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to amend the amount to \$90K. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.** **Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend budget item Legal Services (account #151) in the amount of \$90,000. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Tax Title Foreclosure (account #158) in the amount of \$40,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item SE Reg. Plan. & Economic Development (account #176) in the amount of \$2,914. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Town Report (account #195) in the amount of \$3,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Postage - all depts. (account #100) in the amount of \$38,711. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Sealer Weights (account #244) in the amount of \$2,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Street Lighting (account #425) in the amount of \$105,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Helmreich mentioned that it is more expensive to turn off the streetlights for a period of time than it is to just leave them on. This is because of the fees associated with the turning off and on of the lights.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend budget item Sanitary Landfill (account #438) in the amount of \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Misc. Town Officers and Boards -

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Finance Committee (account #131) in the amount of \$2,700. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Web Committee (account #156) in the amount of \$100. Seconded by Mr. Barletta. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Zoning Board of Appeals (account #177) in the amount of \$300. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Tree Warden (account #294) in the amount of \$2,000. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Historical Commission (account #691) in the amount of \$300. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend budget item Memorial & Veteran's Day (account #692) in the amount of \$1,500. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Hist. District Commission (account #693) in the amount of \$300. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend budget item Industrial Dev. Commission (no account #) in the amount of \$200. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Other Business

Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with a handout showing the FY10 Free Cash Strategy. He noted that the present Free Cash balance is \$687,340.29. He reviewed the 4 articles on the warrant that will be requesting Free Cash funds. They are as follows: \$1 for acceptance of Rubin Drive, \$10K for Hazardous Waste Collection

Day, \$86K for Triennial Revaluation, and \$10K for the McGinn property. Mr. Purcell showed that this left a balance of \$181,339.29 that he said could be used for operating budget supplements.

Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with a preliminary SE Voc. assessment at \$1,155,005, noting that it is an increase of \$76,714 over FY10.

Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with a handout outlining the services Wheaton College provides various departments in town. This information was provided because, at a previous FinCom meeting, inquiries on this topic were made of Mr. James Puello, Town Accountant.

Mr. Graf stated that there is another member needed for the Charter Commission. Mr. Tarantino has already volunteered to be a member. Mr. Graf said that if a FinCom member were not able to volunteer for the position, it would be advertised to open the position to a non-member.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2010 at 7:30pm. Mr. Purcell said that he should have the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

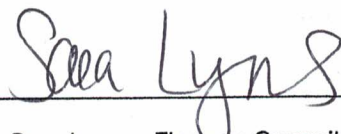
Mr. Jack Sharry will discuss health insurance with the FinCom on Monday, March 29th.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary