

NORTON TOWN CLERK

APR 09 2010

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**Finance Committee Meeting
March 24, 2010
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

Absent: Jackie Desrochers; Michael Flaherty.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to approve the March 22, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Special Town Meeting warrant articles-

Mr. Purcell reviewed the articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant as follows:

Article 1 – Unpaid bills

Article 2 – Norton Glen sewer tie-in – Mr. Purcell explained that Norton Glen wants to tie in to the sewer system and to do so they would need to go through the Red Mill Village system.

Article 3 – Utility easements – this article would give the Selectmen the authority to grant utility easements.

Article 4 – Mr. Purcell said that Treasurer/Tax Collector Jackie Boudreau would be coming to a future FinCom meeting to explain this article further.

Article 5 – NMS reconstruction – Mr. Purcell said that the borrowing for this project was \$84K too much and that this article would rescind that amount of the borrowing.

Article 6 – Recreation Department – Mr. Purcell said that there is \$8,152.45 in an account from 1986 that was voted for a land study for recreational purposes. The article is requesting that this amount be transferred to the recreation account to fund the recreation program this summer, specifically lifeguards for the Everett Leonard pool. He mentioned that there is a new recreation commission that is doing an excellent job with clean up and renovation projects and raising funds for upcoming rec. seasons.

Article 7 – FY10 Capital Plan amendment – This article would transfer \$30K from the Water Surplus account to upgrade the Water Dept.'s radio system.

Article 8 – Fire Department contract – this article is in the warrant in case the contract is settled in time for Town Meeting.

Article 9 – This article would amend the town's FY10 Operating Budget and the FY10 Water Enterprise Budget.

Article 10 – Arrowhead Village – This neighborhood is asking that the Selectmen be authorized to accept the 3 streets involved as public ways. Mr. Purcell said that he's not sure if the form of the petition is valid. He also noted that the neighborhood is a 40B project and that part of that is that the neighborhood would be a private way and residents of those streets would be responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Tarantino stated that maintaining private ways is actually illegal and that the town needs to be very careful to be sure that it is not happening. He also said that accepting private ways as public could prove to be a slippery slope.

Revised Water Budget –

Mr. Helmreich said that he had recently met with the Water Department regarding the FY11 budget. He said that they have devised a balanced budget without transferring any funds from Water Surplus. He also said that there is no anticipation of any extra revenue as there has been in past years.

Mr. Helmreich stated that there will not be an increase in rates, but there will be a change in classification levels, which will increase revenue. Mr. Purcell said that there is an increase in the cost of previously authorized

borrowings, necessitating the increase in revenue, therefore the change in classification. He noted that there would be a 2% increase in wages for FY11, as well as an increase in the cost of chemicals.

III. Other Business

Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with updated copies of budget sheets that have recently been voted on.

Mr. Helmreich informed the FinCom that the School Committee revised their vote to authorize \$600K, as opposed to the \$800K previously voted on, for the HS feasibility study.

Mr. DeLuca noted that, in literature that the FinCom received from Dr. Ansary regarding the MBSA guidelines for a school reconstruction project, a town is given 120 days to appropriate funds once the town has project approval. Mr. Helmreich said that the "project approval" is not when the feasibility study is approved, but when the entire project is approved. When Mr. DeLuca asked Mr. Purcell if 120 days is sufficient time to have a town meeting to let the townspeople vote whether or not they would like to fund the project, Mr. Purcell said that yes, it could be.

Mr. Helmreich rose the subject of the possibility of pushing back the date of Town Meeting. He said that the FinCom is required to have their report done and submitted one week prior to town meeting and that the public hearing needs to be held before that. He also pointed out that in order to do both of these things there needs to be a voted upon budget and that without Local Aid numbers that won't be possible.

Mr. Purcell said that he feels that the majority of the budget will be done and hopefully voted on by the end of April, but that the more involved parts of the budget – cuts and actual Local Aid amounts – will not be done. He said that both the Annual as well as the Special Town Meetings could be moved to a later date as he doesn't think there are any time-sensitive articles on either warrant.

Mr. Tarantino pointed out that for the FY10 budget the FinCom encountered the same problem and voted on a "safe guesstimate" for Local Aid numbers and based their budget votes on that.

Mr. Purcell said that he would discuss the possibility of moving the date of Town Meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

Next Meeting

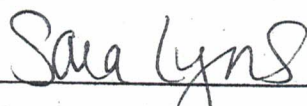
The next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2010 at 7:30pm. Mr. Purcell said that Mr. Jack Sharry, health care consultant, would be in attendance. Also, Mr. Duane Knapp, Water/Sewer Superintendent, will address the FinCom at this meeting.

Mr. Purcell said that Ms. Jackie Boudreau, Treasurer/Tax Collector, may be in attendance on March 31st to address the FinCom regarding an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary