

## Finance Committee Meeting

May 3, 2010

7:30 PM

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## Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

**Present:** Chairman, Wayne Graf; Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFaun; Michael Thomas; Lee Tarantino; Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Absent:** Jackie Desrochers; Michael Flaherty; Philip Zawasky.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Ms. McFaun to approve the April 28, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

**Special Town meeting Warrant Article 5 - Mr. Jeff O'Neil**, of the Condone Corporation, addressed the Finance Committee regarding Article 5 (Hill St.). He explained that the company owns a 14-acre parcel of land on which they would like to build a 26,000 square foot maintenance facility for trucks. He said that presently there are not any utilities on Hill Street that the building could tie into. Mr. O'Neil explained that the article is requesting a utility easement over the adjacent, town-owned parcel of land. Mr. Purcell noted that the easement has been worked out with the Water and Sewer Departments. Mr. O'Neil said that the building project would be complete by the end of this calendar year. He pointed out that the town would benefit from the increased property tax it would receive, as well as the excise tax on the trucks. He said that he anticipates that most of the truck traffic would come through the Myles Standish Industrial Park.

Mr. Tarantino said that he feels that the traffic coming and going to this new building could become a big problem and questioned whether traffic could be legally prohibited. Mr. Purcell said that any roadway that connects 2 towns cannot prohibit a certain type of traffic. Mr. Helmreich expressed concern over car traffic, not necessarily traffic from the trucks. Mr. O'Neil said that he could instruct the tenants of the proposed building to use the industrial park as a way of travel.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 5 on the Special town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Local Aid funding - Mr. Purcell** said that the House passed their budget last Friday and that both Chapter 70 School Aid and Unrestricted General Government Aid were cut by 4%. Therefore the target numbers for the FY11 budget are, for General Government - \$9,715,066, and for the School Department - \$22,126,125. This means a cut of \$189,084 will need to be made to the Gen. Gov. side of the budget, and a cut of \$441,195 will need to be made to the School side. Mr. Purcell also said that, in the Fixed & Shared portion of the budget, the debt portion may change but he plans to recommend the difference to come from the Stabilization account. He said that the current balance in the Stabilization account is \$907,923.

**Budget Accounts -**

**Veteran Services - Mr. Purcell** informed the FinCom that the Selectmen recently voted to join with the town of Easton to form a Veteran's Services District. Mr. Steven Owen has worked in the town of Easton as the Veteran's Services agent and will continue to do so. Mr. Purcell is proposing a sum of \$4,426 for clerical services to aid Mr. Owen. Mr. Purcell also stated that the 2 towns agreed to calculate their "share" of the cost for the position according to population. Norton's share, according to population, is 44.8%. Mr. Owen's salary for FY11 is \$63,195, so Norton's share would be \$28,311. Mr. Purcell noted that, in his budget recommendations for this budget, he rounded up the amount to \$31K to also cover Treasury Services.



Mr. Purcell stated that the total proposed budget for this account is \$255,426 - the bulk of which is Veteran's Benefits. He noted that this would be an overall savings of \$30K over the FY10 amount.

Mr. Purcell stated that Mr. Owen would work 2 days in each town and the last day would be a floating day. Mr. Purcell also said that the town is in talks with the EPOCH Senior Living Center about the possibility of EPOCH providing services at the Senior Center.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Veteran's Agent - Personal Service (acct.# 543-510) in the amount of \$4,426. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Veteran's Agent - Charges and Expenditures (acct.# 543-570) in the amount of \$31,000. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Veteran's Agent - Veteran's Benefits (acct.# 543-579) in the amount of \$220,000. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Purcell noted that the town would also be saving \$11K on splitting the costs of Mr. Owen's benefits.

*Council on Aging* - Mr. Purcell noted that the salary and wages portion of the budget shows a modest increase for the custodian. The total amount of \$1,160 would provide for the custodian's salary as well as the clerical services for taking applications for the fuel assistance program.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Council on Aging - Personal Service (acct.# 541-510) in the amount of \$1,160. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Council on Aging - Charges and Expenditures (acct.# 541-570) in the amount of \$6,800. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### *Snow & Ice -*

**Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend the Snow Removal - Charges and Expenditures (acct.# 423-570) in the amount of \$80,000. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

*Data Processing* - Mr. Purcell said that three different vendors are submitting proposals for this service by this coming Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Town Clerk and Elections* - Mr. Purcell said that because of the recent election of a new Town Clerk, he would wait to discuss this budget request because the new Clerk may have a different request than he anticipates.

*Municipal Building Maintenance* - **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend the Municipal Building Maintenance - Charges and Expenditures (acct.# 192-570) in the amount of \$250,900. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Norton Cable Access Project** - Mr. Purcell updated the FinCom on the Norton Cable project. He said that Norton Cable Access had gifted the town \$116K to change the town's communications from analog to fiber. He noted that the only cost to the town would go towards paying the police detail and that he anticipated that being approximately \$4,300.

#### **Annual Town Meeting Articles -**

*Article 18 (formally 19)* - The petition of John Freeman, et al. - It was noted that the changes discussed when Mr. Freeman addressed the FinCom would need to be moved on the Town Meeting floor as the article could not be changed at this time, and that the FinCom would need to take a vote on the article as it is presently written. Mr. Tarantino stated that he feels that this article needs to be further developed and possibly presented again for another Town Meeting.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 18. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All opposed, with Mr. Bouchard abstaining. **Motion fails.**

*Article 20 (formally 21)* – The formation of a Sewer Stabilization Account - Mr. Purcell said that he feels that the creation of the Sewer Stabilization Account (Article 20 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant) is imperative.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 20. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor.  
**Motion carries.**

*Articles 19(1), 19(2), and 19(3) (all formally 20)* – Mr. Tarantino expressed that he feels that these articles were made to give a specific employee a raise and doesn't agree with it. He said that he feels that a salary plan would be a good idea so that the salary range would be known by everyone when hiring someone. He expressed his opposition to the articles. Mr. Helmreich stated that he also does not support the article, but for a different reason. He feels that all salary ranges should be done away with. Mr. DeLuca said that he feels that any employee not in a union should be on a salary plan. He also questioned why the State is requiring that the Town Accountant be removed from the salary plan. Mr. Purcell explained that it was because of a statute that was created to give town accountants bargaining opportunities.

Mr. Barletta said that he likes the idea of a salary range and that it should be further talked about when discussing revisions to the town charter. Mr. Helmreich pointed out that what is remaining of the salary plan is merely pieces of what it originally was.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Bouchard to recommend Articles 19(1), 19(2), and 19(3). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All opposed. **Motion fails.**

#### **Special Town Meeting Article 13 – Arrowhead Village**

Mr. Purcell informed the FinCom that the town's counsel has said that the article is valid. Mr. Purcell pointed out that the article, if passed, would give the Selectmen the *authority* to accept the roads as public ways, but that the Selectmen have expressed that that is not their intention and they are not required to do so.

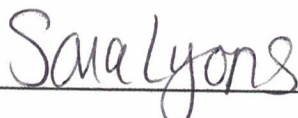
#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010 at 7:30pm. The Recreation Department and the Library will be present to discuss their FY11 budget proposals.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous.  
**Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary