

MAY 24 2010

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**Finance Committee Meeting  
May 5, 2010  
7:30 PM**

**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

**Absent:** Michael Thomas.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

**II. New Business**

**Reserve Fund Transfer Request –**

Mr. Purcell explained that \$4,357.06 was needed to fund the police detail for the Norton Cable Access project of updating town communications from analog to fiber optic.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the transfer of \$4,357.06 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to account #001-990-000-5962 (Special Revenue Fund). Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Purcell went on to say that the next step in this project is to actually connect the main trunk line and switch everything over, and that he anticipates the cost will be around \$20K. He said that Norton Cable will likely split the cost with the town 50/50.

**Recreation Department –**

Bob Kimball, Selectman, and Sheri Cohen, Chairwoman of the Park and Recreation Department, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 9 on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Kimball explained that there is \$8,152.45 in an account from a May 1986 town meeting vote for a land study for recreational purposes. He said that this land is located behind Red Mill Village and is land-locked with no right-of-way.

The present article is requesting that this amount be transferred to the recreation account to fund the recreation program for this summer, specifically lifeguards for the Everett Leonard pool. Mr. Kimball explained that the current fiscal year's budget will open the pool, but the funds being requested would be needed to close the pool. Mr. Kimball said that it is very important to keep the pool open, and that if it closes that it may not open again.

Mr. Tarantino pointed out that the Recreation Department is requesting the funds from the 1986 article on top of the regular FY11 budget request of \$9,695. Mr. Kimball said that some of the money would be used to run the recreational programs other than the pool. He said that the funds from the article would be "seed money" to get the program started and then the fees charged for the recreational programs would fund the following years.

Ms. Cohen reviewed for the FinCom the improvements that have been occurring in the program and at Everett Leonard Park in the past seven months. She said that most materials and labor have been donated. She said that various groups are renting out the facilities and that it is bringing in funds from the rental fees. Ms. Cohen said that the Recreation Department has developed a website as well as a Facebook page as another way to connect with the community. She said that when the new, current Recreation Department started 7 months ago the department's Revolving Account was a negative account and the balance is now \$1,646.17, and the department's Gift Account was a little over \$1K and presently has a balance of \$6,643.02.

Mr. Tarantino commended the Recreation Department on their efforts. He said that he would like to wait on voting on this article until after personnel/services cuts are made in other town departments and offices.



Ms. Cohen said that without the \$8K, the Rec. Department would not be able to pay the lifeguards. She said that the head lifeguard would get \$10/hour and the other lifeguards would make \$8/hour.

Mr. Barletta suggested asking EMTs to donate their time to help with lifeguarding the pool. Ms. Cohen said that the Rec. Dept. would like the pool open 43 hours per week and isn't sure if that would work.

Ms. Cohen said that she does not anticipate needing this additional \$8K next year, but that this year it is needed as start-up money. She expects that the programs run in FY11 would yield the funds needed to run the programs in FY12.

Mr. Bouchard commended the Rec. Dept. on their hard work and asked where the money from the 1986 article would go if the Rec. Department did not use it. Mr. Purcell said that it cannot be re-appropriated for a non-recreational use and that it would go into the general budget and then become Free Cash for the following year. Mr. Bouchard pointed out that this \$8K could not be used to make a difference in FY11's budget anyhow.

Ms. McFaun said that she feels that the kids of the town have had so much cut already (school libraries and the town library) and that she supports the Rec. Dept. getting this money.

Mr. Purcell reiterated that he feels that keeping the town pool open is a public safety issue and that, from a financial point, just 2 emergency calls due to kids swimming in dangerous places and getting into trouble would cost the town more than it would cost to run the pool for the summer.

Mr. Kimball made the point that the town doesn't have any other recreational facilities than Everett Leonard Park. He expressed his concern that if the pool were not to open this year that it may not comply with regulations when it tries to re-open later.

Mr. Helmreich and Mr. Graf both said that they would like to see how the rest of the budget works out before making a decision or recommendation on this article.

#### **Library –**

The Library Board of Trustees President, Brian Stalters, provided the FinCom with a FY11 proposed budget as well as the supplemental budget.

He explained that the Library is presently open 30 hours per weeks and is requesting the funding to be open 40 hours per week. Mr. Stalters also said that the board plans to request a waiver for accreditation and if the Library is level-funded the waiver will not be granted.

Mr. Stalters pointed out that for the Library to be open 40 hours, it would need an additional \$53,065 over level-funding (not including Ms. Jackson's buy back of \$18,459 because she plans to retire in FY11).

Mr. DeLuca pointed out that that would be a 23% increase. He also noted that the level-services budget that was also presented, is an 11% *increase* and that, in light of the recent Local Aid numbers that have been released, the town actually needs to make a *decrease* of 4%.

Mr. Barletta made the point that the Library took a 40% decrease last year.

Mr. Stalters commented that the Library took a 40% hit last year in funding, but only decreased it's services by 32%.

#### **Budget Items –**

**Emergency Medical Services – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$79,200 for Emergency Medical Services (230-570). Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Emergency Planning - Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$6,250 for Emergency Planning (240-570). Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Animal Control - Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$43,103 for Animal Control – Personal Services (292-510). Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$8,300 for Animal Control – Charges & Expenditures (292-570). Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Purcell said that he plans to supplement this line item with the Dog Fund at the Fall Town Meeting.

**III. Other Business**

Mr. Purcell informed the FinCom that the Conservation Commission voted to support both Shpack articles.

**Next Meeting**

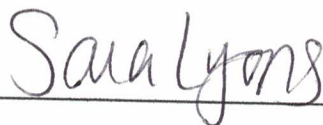
The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2010 at 7:30pm.

Mr. Purcell said that the School Department would be in attendance next week and that the Water/Sewer Commission would be at the FinCom meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary