

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

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2010 SEP 20 A 11: 25

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

Absent: Robert Bouchard; Cheryl McFaun.

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 May 17, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Graf abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Reserve Fund transfer –

Mr. Purcell stated that the present balance in the FinCom Reserve Fund, before this request, is \$126,619.27. He explained that this request is to cover Tax Title Attorney Fees for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion was made to transfer \$6K from the FinCom Reserve Fund to account #001-158-570-5366 (Costs of Tax Title). Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles –

Article 2 – Newland Street/Norton Glen – **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend article 2 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 10 – FY10 Capital Plan Amendment – Mr. DeLuca, who is also a member of the Capital Improvements Committee, explained that this article would fund the replacement of the radio system that would connect public safety departments with the Water and School Departments. He further explained that \$25,771.16 would come from the Capital Improvements account to cover the cost of the School Department's radios and that \$31,677.08 would come from the Water Surplus account, for a total of \$57,448.24.

Mr. Thomas expressed concern over whether the schools really need the radio communication, and whether funding this is wise, considering the economic state of the town.

Mr. Tarantino said that more than just a land line would be necessary in an emergency at one of the schools.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 10 on the Special Town Meeting warrant, with \$25,771.16 coming from the Capital Improvements fund, going to the School Department, and \$57,448.24 coming from the Water Surplus account, going to the Water Department. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas opposed and Ms. Desrochers abstaining.

Article 3 – McGinn Property – Mr. Purcell explained that it is now thought that it would be more appropriate for the article to give conveyance of the property to the Conservation Commission rather than the Selectmen, as abutting properties are conservation lands.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to reconsider article 3 on the Special Town meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend article 3 on the Special Town Meeting warrant, as currently worded, as giving the Conservation Commission conveyance. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Helmreich and Mr. Tarantino expressed their strong support of this article because it would strictly limit the use of the land, specifically restricting development. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 9 – Parks & Recreation, ELP pool – Mr. Helmreich said that he supports what the Parks & Rec. Commission is doing and commends their efforts, but is not yet convinced that the department needs both the funds from this article as well as the regular \$9K+ budget. Mr. Barletta said he feels that the funds from this article should go back to the general budget, therefore becoming Free Cash for next year.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend article 9 on the special town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$8,152.45. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Mr. Purcell said that this year is the first time that he has seen a plan for sustainability of the swim program and that he supports the Recreation Department in this article. Mr. Helmreich suggested supporting this article and then, when reviewing the Rec. Dept.'s budget, the FinCom could recommend a lesser amount than the \$9K+ proposed.

Vote: 7 members in favor, with Mr. Barletta and Mr. Zawasky opposed. **Motion carries.**

Article 11 – IAFF Contract – **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend "no action" for article 11 on the Special Town meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

High School Feasibility Study –

Mr. DeLuca said that the Capital Improvements Committee has been discussing the concern over the failing septic system at the High School and the possible effect it may have on the possible High School renovation project. He also said he feels it needs to be extremely clear at Town Meeting that if the townspeople vote to support the Feasibility Study that they also need to be prepared to vote later to support a Debt Exclusion to fund the actual project – which, he pointed out may include a \$700K septic project that would not be eligible for any reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Helmreich said that he agrees that the townspeople need to be fully aware of what the entire project would entail, but that the focus now should be the vote on getting the Feasibility Study done. He also said that the state would not necessarily require that the septic be fixed in order to move forward with the High School renovation.

Mr. Graf said that his concern is that, if the study was conducted but then the actual project was not funded, that the study would become outdated and unusable later. Mr. Helmreich said that if that were to happen, the study would be partially usable as the town of Foxboro has recently experienced.

Mr. Tarantino said that the septic problem and the High School project are 2 separate issues and should be treated as such.

Mr. Helmreich said that he thinks the \$700K (for the septic) could be part of the loan, but just would not be eligible for state reimbursement.

Mr. Tarantino said that he could like to hear from someone in the School Department as well as the Water Department to speak about the conditions at the High School, Middle School, as well as the Yelle School. He questioned what would happen if the sewer line, that has been in place at the Middle School, continues to go unused.

Mr. Thomas said that he agrees that the 2 issues are separate, but the FinCom as well as the townspeople need to plan for the funding of all of it.

Budget Items –

Accounting (135)

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$143,118 for acct# 135-510 (Accounting – Personal Service). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$22K for acct# 135-520 (Accounting – Purchase of Services). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$3,098 for acct# 135-570 (Accounting – Charges and Expenditures). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Treasurer/Collector (147)

Mr. Purcell said that this department would be losing 1 of the 5 full-time employees because of retirement, and that she would not be replaced. He noted that the buybacks have been accounted for and that FY11's proposed budget is slightly less than FY10.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$198,392 for acct# 147-510 (Treasurer/Collector – Personal Service). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$51,665 for acct# 147-570 (Accounting – Charges and Expenditures). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Town Clerk (161)

Mr. Purcell noted that the salary has been level-funded for the newly elected Town Clerk's position, based on 30 hours per week. He also pointed out that the expense portion has increased for training the new Town Clerk. Mr. Tarantino questioned why the town should be funding the training for an elected position. He also said that he feels the position should not have determined hours and that the person in that position should work whatever amount of time it takes to get the job done. Mr. Helmreich said that a Town Meeting vote had established the amount of hours per week the Town Clerk should work.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$85,293 for acct# 161-510 (Town Clerk – Personal Service). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$3,525 for acct# 135-510 (Town Clerk – Charges and Expenditures). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Inspections (241)

Mr. Purcell said that has recommended to reduce the Local Inspector's hours from 490 per year to 240. He explained that this position, which is essentially the assistant inspector, covers vacations and also works when needed for extra enforcement of certain issues.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$142,310 for acct# 241-510 (Inspections – Personal Service). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$9,750 for acct# 241-570 (Inspections – Charges and Expenditures). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Other Business

Mr. Purcell informed the FinCom that the Senate Ways & Means Committee released their Local Aid Estimates last Wednesday and it reflected 1% less of a cut in Chapter 70 Aid, which would equal more than \$85K. Mr. Purcell said that regardless of this increase in expected Local Aid, he would not be changing the target numbers for the FY11 budget. He said that he anticipates a lot of it would be used for the update in Charter School tuition costs.

Mr. Tarantino requested, for future budget proposals, that all the departments use the same format for consistency.

Mr. Purcell said that he does have a balanced budget proposal to present at the Public Hearing on Wednesday.

Mr. Helmreich requested that Mr. Purcell ask the School Committee to provide the FinCom with a specific list of cuts that would have to be made as a result of the lower Local Aid funding.

Mr. Graf informed the FinCom that the Selectmen have reorganized as follows: Mr. Bob Kimball is now Chairman, Ms. Mary Steele is Vice-Chair, Mr. Brad Bramwell is Secretary, and Mr. Tim Giblin and Mr. Bob Salvo are members.

Mr. DeLuca distributed to the FinCom members a copy of the Report of the Finance Committee for the Annual Town Meeting.

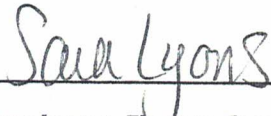
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary