

Finance Committee Meeting
September 14, 2011
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.
Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Robert Camp; Michael Flaherty; Wayne Graf.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the August 31, 2011 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Mr. Helmreich informed the FinCom that member Brett Franklin has resigned from the committee because he took a new job in Vermont.

Library Funding Request –

Mr. Brian Stalters, President of the Library Board, and Ms. Lee Parker, Head Librarian, addressed the FinCom regarding the warrant article that requests additional funding for the library that would allow for it to apply for recertification.

Mr. Stalters stated that the library is requesting \$16,413. He said that this funding would allow the library to reach their goal of \$327,413, which would be enough to keep the library open 40 hours per week and apply for recertification.

Mr. Stalters explained that a few months ago, the Library Board voted to take money out of the endowment for FY12 to help the library increase its hours to 40 per week. However, the endowment funds cannot go towards salaries so they used money from library fines and book sales to cover that. They pointed out that this was a temporary fix until they could request that it be funded via a town meeting vote this fall.

Mr. Stalters said that if the library were to regain certification, they would also receive the \$9K in state aid. He noted that this \$9K could be used for salaries.

Ms. Parker said that the MAR (Municipal Appropriation Requirement) for FY13 is \$321,817, which would satisfy funding requirements for recertification purposes, but unfortunately this amount would not be enough to fund the library to be open for 40 hours per week.

Mr. DeLuca said that he would like to see actual amounts for upcoming years, not just next year. He said he would not be in favor of funding a short-fix. Mr. Helmreich requested that Ms. Parker and Mr. Stalters forward to the FinCom the library’s projected budget for the next few years.

Town Meeting Warrant articles –

Article 1: Unpaid Bills – This would come from Free Cash.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$2,167.76, coming from Free Cash, for bills incurred in the prior fiscal year. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 3: GASB #45 – Mr. Yunits explained that GASB examines what post-retirement costs would be for the town. This article would need \$10K.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 3, the transfer of \$10K in Free Cash for GASB #45. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 10: Hazardous Waste Day – The \$10K would be used for the town’s Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

A discussion was had and it was determined that in the spring there was an article that funded salaries for Hazardous Materials occurrences, but not a Hazardous Waste Day.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 10, the transfer of \$10K in Free Cash for Hazardous Waste Day . Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 17: Town Clerk – The article is requesting that the Town Clerk’s office stay closed on Saturdays and consider Saturday as a holiday for Open Meeting Law purposes. Mr. Yunits explained that this article would at times move the deadline for posting purposes up to the previous Friday. It was noted that this article would override state law.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend the authorization of the town clerk’s office to remain closed on all Saturdays and to treat Saturdays as a legal holiday for purposes of calculating the time frame for filing matters in that office. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced: Minutes of August 31, 2011
Town Meeting warrant
Library supporting materials

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary