

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 19, 2011
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Robert Camp; Thomas DeLuca; Michael Flaherty; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas; Wayne Graf.

Absent: Jackie Desrochers.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

II. New Business

Mr. Brian Clark, Police Chief, addressed the FinCom regarding Articles 19 and 20 on the town meeting warrant as follows:

Article 19 –

This article would adopt a new by-law that would prohibit the public consumption of marijuana, with a penalty of \$300. Chief Clark said that both Attleboro and Mansfield currently have this similar by-law in place. He also said that this by-law has already been approved by the attorney general.

Chief Clark went on to say that this by-law would allow the town to file a by-law complaint against the offender and would mandate the violator to provide his/her real name and address.

Mr. Thomas said that he would even more so like to see this change on a state-wide level.

Mr. Tarantino said that he feels that the increased fine amount is an incentive for the town to follow through and pursue the fine in court in the event that the offender does not pay.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 19. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Mr. DeLuca said that he feels that more important than the fine is the requirement that the offender provide his/her real name and address. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Helmreich expressed that they are not entirely comfortable with the article but would support it. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 20 –

This article would adopt a new by-law that would require that individuals seeking special licenses, such as taxi drivers and door-to-door solicitors, be fingerprinted as part of a national criminal history check. Chief Clark noted that this by-law would not be enacted until May 4, 2012, according to law. He said that this article was also reviewed and approved by the attorney general.

Mr. Camp expressed that, although he agrees with CORI checks, he is fundamentally opposed to the requirement of fingerprints.

Chief Clark said that these fingerprints would not become part of a database that could be used if someone committed a crime at a later date. He explained that they would be used to see if the applicants had a previous record.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 20. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Mr. Camp expressed his concern about where the fingerprints would be used in the future. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Camp opposed. **Motion carries.**

Capital Improvements –

Mr. Flaherty outlined the capital improvements requests as follows:

\$324, 405 – Dam Repair (\$54,405.59 of which would come from the Reservoir Dam Repair account)

\$31,000 – Police cruiser

\$10, 000 – pump replacement for broken sewer pump

\$9,400 – 3rd and final payment for a sewer truck

Mr. DeLuca noted that the \$10K for the pump replacement should be funded out of the Sewer Stabilization account. Mr. Flaherty said that he would find out more information on that.

Mr. Camp asked, if the \$10K could not be reimbursed, couldn't the FinCom instead reduce, by \$10K, the amount of Free Cash going into the Sewer Stabilization account.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$750K from existing authorized Free cash to the Capital Improvements Fund for Article 13 as recommended by the Capital Improvements Committee and the Town Manager. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Town Meeting Warrant Articles –

Article 2 – Mr. Helmreich said that this article would likely address 2 contracts, but most certainly at least one. He also said that he believes that they are both one-year contracts.

Article 12 – Mr. Helmreich said that the Library funding, if recommended, would be included in the Operating Supplements of Article 12.

III. Old Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion carries.

Documents Referenced: Fall Town Meeting warrant

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary