

Finance Committee Meeting
March 18, 2013
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Lee Tarantino; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Richard Dorney; Stephen Evans; Paul Helmreich; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.
Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Vice-Chair Michael Flaherty; Jackie Desrochers.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the March 13, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Evans abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Operating Revenues and Expenditures –

Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with an updated Operating Revenues and Expenditures sheet. He explained that the School budget has been increased by \$613,993, up to \$23,621,867. He said that, because of this, some cuts were made. These cuts include Police Department overtime by \$15K, Communication Department overtime by \$14K, and Fire Department accounts by \$4,500.

70% - 30% Split –

Mr. Yunits explained that with the new allotments, the School’s side budget is \$23,621,867 (70.525%) and the Town’s side is \$9,872,391 (29.475%).

Town Department FY14 Budget Requests –

#171 – Conservation Department – The FY14 proposed budget for the Conservation Commission includes \$81,101 for Personnel, which includes contractual salary and longevity increases. The Expenses portion of the proposed budget is level-funded.

#440/450 – Water and Sewer Department – Mr. Steven Wiseman, W/S Commission Board member, was present to discuss the proposed budgets with the FinCom. He noted that the Water budget is almost level-funded. He said that there will be one less employee in FY14.

Mr. Wiseman said that there will be a rate hearing tomorrow night (3/19/13) to set the new rate. He said that it is anticipated that there will be a 4.25% rate increase for both Water and Sewer.

Mr. Yunits informed the committee that it has been agreed upon and that Campanelli will be paying the \$152K lien that is owed the town.

Miscellaneous Town Officers and Board Expenses –

#131 – Finance Committee – A discussion was had and it was decided to reduce the recording secretary salary line down to \$1,990 because of past expenditures.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #131 in the amount of \$3,500. Seconded by Mr. Carignan. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#177 – Zoning - **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #177 in the amount of \$300. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#182 – Industrial Development Commission - **Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #182 in the amount of \$0. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#294 – Tree Warden - **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #294 in the amount of \$2,000. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#691 – Historical Commission - **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #691 in the amount of \$150. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#692 – Memorial and Veteran's Day – It was discussed that there have been a lot of stolen markers from the cemeteries, along with vandalism. **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #692 in the amount of \$1,500. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#693 – Historical District Commission - **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #693 in the amount of \$100. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#132 – Reserve Fund – Mr. Yunits said that there are no legal restrictions on what can be put in to this account. Mr. Tarantino brought up the question of whether more should be put into the Reserve Fund now or if it were better to wait until the fall. Mr. Thomas said that he feels that given the fiscal situation, the FinCom should keep the amount at \$150K and possibly increase it in the fall. Mr. Helmreich agreed.
Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #132 in the amount of \$150K. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#151 – Legal Services - **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #151 in the amount of \$100K. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#158 – Tax Title Foreclosure - **Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #158 in the amount of \$40K. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#162 – Elections - **Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #162 in the amount of \$18,070. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

#176 – SE Planning and Development - **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #176 in the amount of \$3,075. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#195 – Town Report - **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #195 in the amount of \$3,200. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#199 – Postage – It was noted that there is a slight increase in this line item over last year. **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #199 in the amount of \$35,786. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#244 – Sealer of Weights - **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #244 in the amount of \$2K. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#425 – Street Lighting – Mr. Dorney asked when the last time was that the town looked into new technology and energy efficiency for street lighting. Mr. Yunits explained that the electric company controls that, not the town. **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #425 in the amount of \$110K. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#438 – Sanitary Landfill – Mr. Yunits explained that this is to fund landfill testing required by the state. Mr. Tarantino asked Mr. Yunits about the solar panel project. Mr. Yunits said that nothing ever came of it, that the company didn't have the financing. He went on to explain that there something called an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) which "weeds out" companies that do not have financing before the town even gets into discussions with them. He said that he would talk to town counsel about it. Mr. Helmreich asked why the amount requested for FY13 and FY14 is \$6,700 when it was \$5,400 in both FY11 and FY12. Mr. Yunits said that he would find out and report back to the FinCom. It was decided to wait on a vote.

III. Old Business

School Department – Mr. DeLuca asked if the School Department agreed with Mr. Yunits' recommended cuts to the School budget. Mr. Yunits said that he would be meeting with the Interim Superintendent this week to discuss the cuts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous.
Motion carries.

Documents Referenced: Minutes of March 13, 2013
Proposed FY14 budgets of the following department #s: 171, 440, 450, 131, 177, 182, 294, 691, 692, 693, 132, 151, 158, 162, 176, 195, 199, 244, 425, and 438

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Date Approved

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary