

Finance Committee Meeting
September 23, 2013
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK

2015 APR 16 P 1:16

Present: Chair, Michael Flaherty; Vice-Chair, Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Michael Fiore; Paul Helmreich; William Rotondi; Lee Tarantino; Michael Thomas.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Richard Dorney; Stephen Evans.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the September 16, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Fiore. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article 2 – FY14 Operating Budget Amendments

Mr. Yunits reviewed the accounts and their requests that are a part of this article, with amounts totaling \$40,435. He noted that the Town Clerk's office is requesting \$2,745 for new software. He said that if this software were to be acquired there would end up being a \$890 annual maintenance cost, but that the first year is given at no cost. There is also a \$9,363 assessment from Southeastern Regional School, which would meet the state-mandated minimum spending.

The biggest cost in the article is the addition of a part-time position for the Council on Aging at \$14,625.

Mr. Yunits said that Norton seniors are calling Attleboro for aid with services and that this position would remedy that. It would be for 20 hours/week for 36 weeks/year. He said that the position is for 20 hours, which would make it eligible for benefits, to make it a more attractive position and hopefully attract more qualified applicants. Mr. Thomas said that he would like to see this position eventually go to full-time and he feels that the seniors in town need a full-time agent. It was discussed whether the position would better be a 19-hour position so the town would not have to pay benefits for this employee.

Mr. DeLuca said that he presently volunteers at the Senior Center 3 times a week and doesn't feel that there is a need for such a position.

Mr. Yunits said that the position would counsel the seniors on financial, emotional, and health issues, as well as work with the volunteers that organize activities.

Mr. Helmreich asked if the Meals on Wheels program would return under this direction. Mr. Yunits said he would find out.

Mr. Fiore said that he supports the 20 hours position and feels that it would attract a more qualified person for the job.

Mr. DeLuca requested that a job description for this position be provided to the FinCom.

Article 5 – Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the Capital Improvements Committee will be meeting again Wednesday night (the 25th).

Mr. Thomas, the FinCom representative for the Capital Improvements Committee, said that the committee is hoping to get major improvements done now instead of continuing to make small fixes.

Mr. Yunits said that the maximum amount for the annual bond payment would be \$200K.

Authorization For Bills and Payroll:

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to allow Finance Committee Chair Michael Flaherty, Finance Committee Vice-Chair Peter Carignan, and in their absence, Town Manager Michael Yunits, to sign Finance Committee bills and payroll.

Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that there is a new bill from Sturdy Hospital (an insurance claim) for \$270.56 and that this would need to be added to this article.

Motion was made by Mr. Carignan to reconsider Article 1. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Carignan to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$9,137.58. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 8 members in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Article 11 – Land Transfer: Woodlock Road

Mr. Helmreich asked if it was found upon further investigation that there was anyone who had rights to the property.

Mr. Yunits explained that the article would not be taking the road, just the property that abuts it.

Mr. Helmreich said that in the past the town has run into problems with property in the grove having not been laid out properly, and that he is looking to avoid that going forward.

It was decided to wait on the vote of this article until further information is provided.

Article 12 – Land Acquisition: Crane Farm (Formally Article 13)

Mr. Helmreich noted that \$5K is also being donated by The Land Preservation Society in addition to the \$5K that the town would be paying.

Mr. Tarantino reminded the committee that the purchase will not go forward if the grant money doesn't go through.

Motion was made by Mr. Carignan to recommend Article 12. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: 7 members in favor, with Ms. Desrochers and Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Article 14 – Water Shed Plan

Mr. Tarantino expressed that he does not agree with grouping the feasibility study and the actual treatment together. He said that he feels that the feasibility study should come first and then *if feasible*, the project should move forward with the treatments.

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the RFQ (Request For Qualifications) went out but there have not been any responses.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend No Action for Article 14. Seconded by Mr. Fiore. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Bob Kimball of the Select Board addressed the FinCom to recognize the effort and time put in to the Water Shed Plan by the Water Bodies Commission. He said that his hope is that the town manager and the Water Bodies Commission can work together to work on the RFQs and make this happen.

Article 18 – By-Laws: Disposition of Abandoned Funds (Formally Article 21)

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 18. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 7 members in favor, with Ms. Desrochers and Mr. Rotondi abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Article 21 – By-Laws: Permanent Building Committee (Formally Article 24)

Motion was made by Mr. Carignan to recommend Article 21. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Mr. Yunits noted that the School Committee is in support of this article. Vote: 7 members in favor, with Ms. Desrochers and Mr. Helmreich abstaining.

Motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Carignan to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced: Minutes of September 25, 2013

Draft of Town Meeting Warrant
Amended Unpaid Bills handout
Capital Improvements Plan

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Michael Flaherty, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary

9/30/13
Date Approved