

Finance Committee Meeting
October 6, 2014
7:00 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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2015 APR 16 P 1:18

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

Absent: Jackie Desrochers; Vice-Chair, Stephen Evans; Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the September 29, 2014 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Article 4 – FY15 Budget Supplements –

School Department: Dr. Baeta, Superintendent, addressed the Finance Committee regarding a \$75K request. He said that there are 2 items being requested: First, \$50K for a Student Information System. The cost includes a 2-year transition which would train all involved. He explained that this training would need to take place in February/March. The other item is \$25K is for the training of up to 10 teachers in the Wilson Reading program. Dr. Baeta explained that this is a contiguous issue that needs to be addressed. This would allow trained teachers to deliver Wilson services during the school day when possible. Therefore the schools would have to contract out less. He said that this course would be required for specific employees by the Superintendent. This amount would fund the training, the materials, and the needed coverage for participating teachers from the JCS, LGN, and the Yelle.

Mr. Yunits explained the remainder of the requests for this article –

Fire Department: \$54,756 is to replace the overtime that was cut when creating the budget last spring. It would also cover the filling of shifts from OJIs (On the Job Injury) for the rest of the year.

Town Manager Wages: \$6,380

Town Manager Auto Expense Tires: \$600

Assessors, conference: \$1,495 (have to attend to be certified)

Data Processing: \$11K of which \$6K is for an upgrade and \$5K is for a permitting system

Police: \$56,300 wages – to put back overtime that was cut in budget process in the spring; \$7,900 arbitration; \$4,771 expenses that were cut in the spring

Dog Officer: \$1,704 in expenses for tires for the van and expenses for the building

The total for this article is \$219,906.

Article 13 – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan –

Mr. Yunits explained that it would be \$20K to develop the plan. He said that the town would hire out someone to develop an approved plan. They would work with the Fire Chief, the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, as well as other town departments.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve Article 13 in the amount of \$20K, coming from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 18 – Water Shed Funding –

The Water Bodies Committee and a representative from ESS, an environmental consulting group, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 18. Matt Ladewig, a certified Lake Manager from ESS, explained the present conditions of each of the 4 ponds involved in this proposed project. He said that Lake Winnecunnet is $\frac{3}{4}$ plant-filled, the Norton Reservoir has a lot of dense weeds, that there are no completely open areas. He said that 30 of the 31 acres of Barrowsville Pond is covered in dense weeds, and that the Chartley Pond is inhabited by multiple species of weeds. Mr. Ladewig presented short-term recommendations for each water body. These recommendations include treatment with systemic herbicide which gets absorbed by plants and kills them. It also includes both harvesting with a harvester as well as by hand.

Mr. DeLuca expressed his concern with the harvester, explaining that the town has tried the harvester in the past. He said that it actually did more harm than help.

Mr. Tarantino said that he was concerned with the effect the chemicals would have on other living things in/around the water bodies. Mr. Ladewig said that the systemic herbicide that is recommended is safe to use even on drinking water.

Mr. Tarantino requested information on the success/failure of other similar water bodies in the area that used a similar treatment plan. Mr. Dominic Maringilo, of ESS, listed a couple of water bodies in Norwell and Duxbury. He also said that he would get further specific examples of local water bodies that have gone through similar treatments. He noted that ESS has been in this business and successful for 40 years.

Mr. Dorney inquired about a maintenance plan. Mr. Ladewig said that there would need to be continuous upkeep, though it would be a lot less involved and less costly.

Mr. Ladewig said that 2 of the water bodies – the Reservoir and Winnecunnet – are close to the worst case scenario that he's seen.

Mr. Ladewig also said that the 1st year amounts quoted are tight, but that the other 2 years depend on how the first year works out.

Mr. Maringilo said that a 80-90% reduction in plant growth is usually guaranteed in the contract.

Mr. Bob Kimball, speaking as a citizen not as a member of the Select Board, urged the FinCom to secure the funding for the 3 years of this article and beyond. He noted that the Select Board has yet to vote on this article.

Mr. Yunits said that he would speak with the town's financial advisor on the cost of borrowing for the first 3 years of this project.

Various FinCom members expressed concerns over funding this 3-year project and then have it be forgotten at year 4 and then it would be all for nothing.

Members agreed that they would like to hear more information before taking a vote.

Article 25 – Personnel By-Law Amendment –

Mr. Yunits explained that the proposed changes are being made to align with the 3-year contracts. He also informed the committee that there aren't any employees that are currently at the bottom of the scale and would be bumped up because of this.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend Article 25 as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: 8 members in favor, with Mr. DeLuca abstaining. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Article 15 – Plain Street Bridge –

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 15 as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 23 – Municipal Aggregation of Electricity –

Mr. Yunits told the FinCom that he attended the Energy meeting last week. He said that Good Energy was chosen by SERPED based on their knowledge and ability to educate residents. He said that a Good Energy representative will be present at Town Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 23 as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

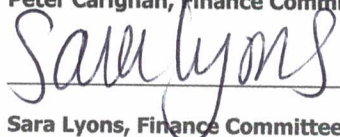
Documents Referenced:

Minutes of September 29, 2014
Article 4 – FY15 Operating Budget Supplements worksheet
ESS Correspondence and maps

Respectfully Submitted by:



Peter Carignan, Finance Committee Chair



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary

2-25-15

Date Approved