

Finance Committee Meeting
April 13, 2016
7:00 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Stephen Evans; Vice-Chair, Michael Fiore; Thomas DeLuca; Richard Dorney; Michael Flaherty; Paul Helmreich; Lee Tarantino.
Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Peter Carignan, Jackie Desrochers; William Rotondi; 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. Helmreich to approve the April 6, 2016 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Flaherty abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

- *Mr. Bernard Marshall, Water/Sewer Superintendent, addressed the FinCom regarding the following:*

Annual Town Meeting Article 8 – Water Treatment Plant Wells 4, 5, and 6

Mr. Marshall discussed the wells, stating that the concern is that the water treatment sites could be on Native American burial sites. He explained that the article is asking for \$430K to come from the \$8.9M which was already appropriated at a previous town meeting. He said that there is about \$775K left of that amount. Mr. Marshall stated that he is very confident that the archeologists will not find any signs that the site is a burial site.

Mr. Marshall went on to explain that the article is also asking for an additional \$500K from borrowing. He said that the project includes the planning, the design, and the construction to treat the wells.

Mr. Marshall said that if the article passes at town meeting then the work will begin immediately and anticipates it to be completed in 2019.

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend Article 8 in the Annual Town Meeting warrant as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Annual Town Meeting Articles 9 and 10 – Water and Sewer Enterprise Budgets

Mr. Marshall explained that the Water and Sewer receipts will completely fund both budgets. He stated that the water rate will be increased by 7% and the sewer rate will be increased by 4%.

Article 9 – Water Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend Article 9 in the Annual Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$3,328,286. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 10 – Sewer Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend Article 10 in the Annual Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$1,119,656. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

- *FY17 Budget Discussion and Votes:*

#300 – Norton Public Schools

Dr. Baeta, Superintendent of Schools, provided the FinCom with a handout detailing the cuts that will need to be made. It totaled \$1,473,574.

The handout detailed the implications this cut will have, including pay-to-play costs for HS athletics. He noted that Chapter 70 Aid will be increased from \$20/student to \$55/student, which is an overall addition of \$90,405 for Norton. He also noted that health insurance is yet to be settled.

A discussion was had on whether funds from School Choice should be used as part of the Schools budget. Mr. DeLuca made the point that while he understands that School Choice funds are not recurring, the town uses non-recurring funds when using Free Cash to supplement the general budget. He said that he feels the Schools should do the same with School Choice funds. Mr. Deniz Savas, Chair of the School Committee, said that he strongly disagrees with using School Choice funds as part of the budget, for the same reasons that Mr. DeLuca described. Mr. DeLuca said that he agrees that it is not the best practice, however the town side has been forced to do it for years and feels that the Schools should do the same.

Dr. Baeta expressed that he is extremely concerned for FY18 if the proposed override does not go through.

#300 – School Department

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #300 in the amount of \$25,359,390.

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

#175 – Planning

Yunits explained that this budget proposal cuts the recording secretary. He also said that Charges and Expenditures account was reduced by \$1K in the Engineering line.

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #175-510 in the amount of \$88,030.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #175-570 in the amount of \$2,950. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#541 – Council on Aging

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #541-510 in the amount of \$36,376.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #541-570 in the amount of \$10,800.

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

#610 - Library

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #610-570 in the amount of \$367,565.

Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 6 members in favor, with Mr. Helmreich opposed. **Motion carries.**

#630 - Recreation

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #630-510 in the amount of \$7,400. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 6 members in favor, with Mr. Flaherty opposed. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #630-570 in the amount of \$10K. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#60 – Sewer Enterprise

Mr. Yunits stated that the biggest increase in the Charges and Expenditures line is in the treatment plant costs because of the expansion.

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #60-510 in the amount of \$150,110.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #60-561 (Indirect Expenses) in the amount of \$65,359. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #60-570 in the amount of \$894,187.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #60-590 (Debt Service) in the amount of \$10K. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#61 – Water Enterprise

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #61-510 in the amount of \$771,397.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #61-561 (Interfund Operational Transfers) in the amount of \$381,431. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #61-570 in the amount of \$1,074,250.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend account #61-590 (Debt Service on Long-Term Debt) in the amount of \$1,101,208. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

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

Motion carries.

Documents Referenced: Minutes of April 6, 2016
Water and Sewer FY17 Budgets
FY17 Proposed Budgets
FY17 #300 School Budget and Supplemental Materials
Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Respectfully Submitted by:

Stephen Evans, Finance Committee Chair

Date Approved

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary