# Finance Committee Minutes Monday, March 27, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room

NORTON TOWN CLERK

#### Call To Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chairman, Mike Thomas; Vice-Chair, Paul Helmreich; Jackie Desrochers; Angel Doyle; Lee Tarantino; and Philip Zawasky. Absent: Tom DeLuca and Donna Summerfield.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to accept the Finance Committee Minutes of March 1, 2006 as amended. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

# 2. New Business

# 1. Reserve Fund Transfer - Council on Aging

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to transfer \$1200.00 from FinCom reserve account to Council on Aging/Norton Human Services, 01-541-570-5215 (for heating costs-Norton Senior Center). Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell stated this leaves approximately \$132,000 in reserve fund.

# 2. Operating Budget Review, to include but not necessarily be limited to:

Selectmen 122

### Salaries:

\$5,000 increase over last year (cost of living raises included).

Mr. Helmreich said it shows \$46,359 and then \$51,355 (FY06 and FY07 discrepancy). Mr. Purcell said '06 was appropriated; and \$51,355 will be reflected on an article on Special Town Meeting warrant (retroactive contract).

Mr. Helmreich had concern that increase shown is "really" not an increase.

Mr. Purcell said there are seven articles at this time and seeing if they can adjourn special town meeting and give info only on articles. Discussion followed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend \$51,355.00, Board of Selectmen (122), Salaries (511) Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Expenses:**

Expenses are level-funded.

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend \$4,700.00, Board of Selectmen(122), Expenses (570). Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

# Town Manager 123

**Salaries** 

Mr. Purcell explained this was the base wage for Town Manager and Town Manager's Assistant (cost of living raise for Town Manager's Assistant). Town Manager's contract expired June 30, 2004.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$153,636.00, Town Manager (123), Salaries and Wages account. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

**Expenses:** 

Mr. Purcell said expenses were level-funded. Discussion followed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$7,990.00, Town Manager (123), Expenditures. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Accounting 135

Mr. Purcell said separation expenses exceed \$20,000 for former Town Accountant. New Town Accountant's annualized salary at \$56,000; increase to \$60,000 on July 1st; and following year could be zero increase as it depends on performance (revising budget format and A/P system progress). It could potentially bring salary to \$64,000 if goals met.

Mr. Purcell said including Assistant and part-time position (18 hour position) brings total to \$110.230.00.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$110,380, Accounting (135), Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Accounting (135), Purchase of Services, \$20,500. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Accounting (135), Other Charges and Expenses \$3,715.00 Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

**Audit** 

Mr. Purcell said meeting scheduled with officials from state treasurer's office for pre-audit site visit next week at Middle School. Town has been overpaid on reimbursement of Commonwealth and will need to pay it back. Fourteen years to amortize \$1.1M in overpayments made to date. Fortunately, Commonwealth appears to be in a "help" mode. F2008 will be first impact. Audit to take place end of this fiscal year or summertime. Worst that could happen would be instead of \$1.4M annual reimbursement, Town does not get anything. Discussion ensued.

Assessors 141

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend \$126,497.00, Assessors (141), Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTON was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend zero, Assessors (141), Purchase of Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

# 3/27/06 Finance Committee Minutes Page 3

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend \$13,190.00, Assessors (141), Other Charges & Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

## Treasurer/Collector 147

A \$5,000 increase in salary account. It was noted salary is low for the southeastern region. \$55,730 is current salary; comparable salaries are \$60,000 in other communities. Total 7.66% increase.

It was discussed that 3.3-3.5% is range

Mr. Fiore said he is not saying person does not deserve this raise, however it is a large increase.

Mr. Helmreich said he had trouble deviating from a policy well-established by the FinCom. He said it is an elected position and not reporting to anyone and not generally being evaluated.

Mr. Purcell said he believed individual is accomplished with good customer services skills.

Mr. Fiore said elected officials should be level-funded and ask people to give them raise at Town Meeting. He said he feels 3.5% will be FinCom's recommendation.

Mr. Purcell said he and FinCom will have to respectfully disagree on this issue.

Mr. Thomas said this is a unique year; looking at 2 1/2 levy limit.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Treasurer/Collector (147), the sum of \$57,681.00 (3.5% increase). Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell said for other staff person, '07 request accurately reflects compounding of '05 appropriations.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$128,583.00, Treasurer/Collector (147), Other Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$60,500.00, Treasurer/Collector, Other Charges and Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

# Data Processing 15

Level-funded at \$86,000. \$30,00 of this is for general technical support and \$40,000 for specific various software packages.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$86,000 for Data Processing/Info Technology (155), Other Charges and Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

## Tax Title Foreclosure 158

Mr. Purcell said Town is getting more and more aggressive in this area. Special Town Meeting warrant asking for few dollars for this area.

Mr. Zawasky asked if foreclosures are up? Mr. Purcell said he would find out and get back to Mr. Zawasky.

3/27/06 Finance Committee Minutes Page 4

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$40,000, Tax Title Foreclosure (158). Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
Town Clerk 161 MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$42,429, Town Clerk (161), (3.5% increase). Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
It was noted the same was done for Treasurer/Collector.
MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$38,268.00, Town Clerk (161), Other Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to move zero, Town Clerk (161), Purchase and Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$2,800.00, Town Clerk (161), Other Charges & Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
Mr. Purcell referenced page 16A and said he needed to check math as he was certain '06 was 3% above '05 for treasurer/collector. He needed to check personnel worksheet.
It was noted to hold off on Town Clerk and Treasurer/Collector.
Election and Registration 162 MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$550.00, Election and Registration (162), Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
Other Charges and Expenses: MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$28,090.00, Election and Registration, Other Charges and Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
Conservation 171  Mr. Fiore noted a possible typo - Conservation Agent increase to 3.3%.
Mr. Purcell said 3.5% should be laid down. All other labor unions are "pretty much there". 3.5% for SENA-A positions. He said he anticipated by Special Town Meeting these contracts will be settled.
Mr. Helmreich said he was leary about approving figures now where contracts not yet done (have trouble putting in budget when is not contracted). If amount put in, basically they won't settle for less. It was noted the School Committee does this on a different scale. Mr. Purcell said he does not want to leave it out. Discussion ensued
It was decided to hold off on "Conservation".
Planning 175 Planning Board coming in for next meeting.

# 3/27/06 Finance Committee Minutes Page 5

Municipal Building 192

New carpeting needed in Town Hall; first cosmetic item they have addressed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$248,900.00, Municipal Building (192), Other Charges & Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend zero, Municipal Building (192), Personnel Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Postage 199

MOTION by Mr. Fiore to recommend zero, Postage, Purchase of Services. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend \$42,400 for Postage, Other Charges and Expenses. Second by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

It was noted Planning Board and Conservation remain to be voted on at a future meeting. Also need to reconsider Town Treasurer and Town Clerk in future; Library budget is also still outstanding.

**Adjournment** 

MOTION was made by Mr. Zawasky to Adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet Sweeney, Finance Committee - Recording Secretary