

**Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.
Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Call To Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Chairman, Mike Thomas; Vice-Chair, Paul Helmreich; Tom DeLuca, Angel Doyle, Donna Summerfield, Lee Tarantino. Absent: Mike Fiore and Philip Zawasky. Town Manager was also present.

1. Approval of Minutes

No Minutes were reviewed.

7:30 P.M. Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

1. Early Childhood Program Revolving Account (ATM Article 7)

It was noted money to be deposited at Town Hall (money contributed by parents) Not costing taxpayers anything.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 7, to establish a revolving fund for the Public Schools' Early Childhood Program in the amount of \$40,000. Second by Ms. Summerfield. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Fiscal Year 2007 School Operating Budget

Dr. Ansay referenced the Impact Statement and said they exceeded \$2.2M and explained categories. She said if necessary without funding they may need to eliminate Project Challenge and Project Quest (talented and gifted program) along with other described reductions.

Dr. Ansay discussed class sizes.

Math curriculum \$900 to \$1,000 cost for kits.

Deferral of professional development work discussed; professional development of staff members is not enough; and recommended it be taken care of. Lack of professional development is always lack of funding in district.

High School in area of "warning" was discussed.

Ms. Summerfield said improvements at High School needed from administration down including teachers, etc.

Dr. Ansay said that is being addressed now.

8:00 P.M. Duane Knapp, Water & Sewer Superintendent

Mr. Knapp said 2006 budget figure included retroactive pay due to contract negotiations. Employees on call need to be legally paid to carry pagers/cell phones over weekend, etc.

Mr. Purcell said Town is now in compliance.

Mr. Knapp discussed mandatory certification: primary or chief well operator needs to be accountable. New position title but no new personnel.

1. Fiscal Year 2007 Water Dept. Budget #450 (ATM Article 4)

Mr. Knapp said he had \$740,000 in reserve account.

2. Water Project Bond Authorization (ATM Article 18)

Mr. Knapp said presently he was not ready to settle this tonight. Major replacement on Eddy Street; need to replace center water tank; desal pipe line and West Main St. work need to immediately be done and desal to start in 2007.

Mr. Purcell said they learned Town was overcharging Water Dept. for a number of years. In past never itemized except this year.

3. West Main Street Sewer Main (ATM Article 19)

\$300,000 in construction costs estimated in connection with water project. Discussion ensued

Mr. Purcell noted the various funding schedules on page 59.

4. Fiscal Year 2007 Sewer Dept. Budget #440

This is for budget #440: \$103,380. 07 and 06 is around 7%

Mr. Don Brown said there were no capital cost figures from Town of Mansfield yet. Mr. Knapp said Town (general government) is picking up legal services.

Mr. Purcell said Town will assume under their legal services budget as long as running way it is now.

Article 27: Water Dept. zoning article. Special permit can be obtained to change zoning. Need to protect Town water supplies in WRPD (includes self-storage facilities; livestock farm issue over five acres as most major disease outbreaks from livestock farms). Under five acres regs discussed.

Mr. Helmreich said he did not agree with these regs; a review process he believed was needed.

Mr. Knapp said aquifer needs protection and he has done his job even if it gets voted down. DEP telling towns to tighten up regs.

Mr. Tarantino said he has a problem with term "livestock farm"; acreage does not matter. Farm is misleading and indicates a business operation. Needs to be defined better such as "commercial livestock farms". He suggested to amend before going to Town Meeting.

Mr. Purcell referenced Ch40A stating submittal to Board of Selectmen and to Planning Board. Planning Board went through various procedures (advertised meeting, etc.) and held public hearing last evening. He said if adjourned public hearing as written could still reconsider and submit different report. Case could be taken to Planning Board was next step. Planning Board voted to recommend it.

Review and/or Vote to Approve Operating Budgets:

#171 Conservation

Mr. Purcell said he did expense portion before and calculation of wages was wrong and replacement pages given to make those corrections. Secretarial position from 35 to 37 1/2 hours per week

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Conservation #171, Personnel Services, in the amount of \$86,543.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Conservation #171, Expenses, in the amount of \$3,860.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

#175 Planning

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Planning #175, Personnel Services, in the amount of \$82,449.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell spoke of expenses and said he proposed level funded expenses. Town Planner asked \$500 extra just in case, but previous years not needed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Planning Board #175, \$4750.00, Other Charges & Expenses. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

#306 Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School

Mr. Purcell said he was uncertain if superintendent will be able to attend this meeting this evening. 28 student enrollment increase. There may possibly be one other community protesting along with Norton.

Amount was \$708,990; now \$700,085.

Mr. Thomas said it got slightly mitigated per Mr. DeLeo, Norton's rep. He said he did not feel superintendent needed to come in and thanked Mr. Chris DeLeo who did the best he could.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend #306, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School Assessment, in the amount of \$700,085. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

#420 Highway

MOTION was made by Ms. Summerfield to recommend Highway #420, Personnel Services, in the amount of \$491,243.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: All In Favor except for Mr. Helmreich abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Highway #420, Other Charges and Expenses, in the amount of \$134,350.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Highway #420, Capital Outlay, in the amount of \$30,000.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Highway #420, Capital Improvements, in the amount of \$3,000.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

#423 Snow and Ice

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Snow Removal #423, Other Charges & Expenses, in the amount of \$80,000.00. Second by Ms. Doyle. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

***Note: Warrant article numbers are provided for convenience only and are subject to renumbering.**

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to Adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Second by Ms. Summerfield. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.