

**Finance Committee Meeting  
July 11, 2007  
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30p.m.

**Present:** Chairman, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Michael Thomas; Michael Fiore; Philip Zawasky; Tom Deluca; Wayne Graf; Jackie Desrochers; Pasquale Barletta (new member, 1<sup>st</sup> meeting); Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Budget Transfer Recommendations**

Mr. Helmreich said the FinCom will discuss and vote on four budget transfer recommendations, with a separate motion for each.

**Transfer #1:** Transfer of \$544.00 from Fire Dept. Expenses (220-570) to Firefighter Salaries (220-510). This will be on the Selectmen's Meeting's agenda tomorrow.

**Motion** made by Mr. Fiore to allow transfer. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Transfer #2:** Transfer of \$912.00 from Elections Expenses (162-570) to Town /clerk Office Salaries (161-511).

**Motion** made by Mr. Fiore to allow transfer. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with one abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**Transfer #3:** Transfer of \$400.00 from Tree Warden Expense (294-570) to Tree Warden Salaries (294-511).

**Motion** made by Mr. Fiore to allow transfer. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with one abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**Transfer #4:** Transfer of \$500.00 from Selectmen's Expense (122-570) to Town Manager's Expense (123-570).

**Motion** made by Mr. Fiore to allow transfer. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: All in favor, with one abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**Town Manager Report**

Mr. Purcell said that the town is \$42,679 short of what was budgeted.

Mr. Graf asked why it was reported in the newspaper as being more than that.

Mr. Kimball said that he will clear that up at the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Purcell stated that \$1,694,290, less the \$525,021 for reimbursement, is the sending expense for the charter school. The reimbursement formula is as follows: 100% of cost in the 1<sup>st</sup> year student is in attendance, 60% of cost for 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 40% of cost for 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and 0% after that. He said that unless the formula changes it would continue to be more expensive to send Norton residents to the charter school.

Mr. Helmreich stated that for FY'08, the town would be paying out \$1,169,269, after reimbursement.

**Debt Exclusion**

Robert Kimball, Chairman of the Selectmen, wants to bring the issue of debt exclusion back to the voters. He requested the FinCom's position on this.

Mr. Kimball said that he met with Dr. Ansary, Superintendent of Schools, to get assurance from her, as well as the School Committee, on 2 issues: that they will not go for a general override, and they will support the debt exclusion. Mr. Kimball stated that Dr. Ansary agreed to both.

Mr. Kimball stated that there are a lot of infrastructure issues in town buildings.

Mr. Kimball said that he got feedback from voters after the last override vote saying that there was confusion in the wording of the debt exclusion article.

Mr. Helmreich stated that the FinCom previously recommended the debt exclusion unanimously, that the FinCom's financial consultants say that the debt exclusion is a good business plan, that it saves the town money in interest payments.

Mr. Helmreich also stated that the view of the FinCom is that the money from the debt exclusion is to be used for capital expenditures.

Mr. Tarantino said he felt that the request from the Selectmen for the FinCom to support a debt exclusion was political, not financial.

Mr. Kimball said he just wanted everyone to have the opportunity to discuss the issue of a revote.

Mr. Zawasky questioned why the legalese could not be changed in order to make the question clear for voters.

Mr. Purcell said that the legalese cannot be changed, but possibly the promotional groups could change their wording to make it clearer for voters.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca for a Resolution to support Debt Exclusion. Second by Mr. Fiore. Mr. Freeman, a town resident, spoke up with a few comments on the topic of the debt exclusion.

Mr. Freeman said that he felt that the debt exclusion was not a solution, just a temporary fix and that the FinCom should look at how to solve the problem with what the town already has.

Mr. DeLuca stated that it is less expensive for the town to do a debt exclusion than a bond.

Mr. Freeman strongly stated his opposition to the debt exclusion.

Mr. Helmreich asked for a vote on Mr. DeLuca's motion to support the debt exclusion. Vote: Unanimous.

**Motion carries.**

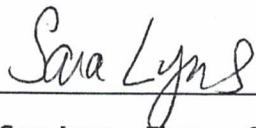
Mr. Helmreich said the FinCom would elect new officers at next meeting in September.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. unless an earlier meeting is needed.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 9:00pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary