

**Finance Committee Meeting
March 12, 2008
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf; Paul Helmreich; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Vice-Chair, Mr. Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35.

I. Old Business

II. New Business

Mr. Purcell, providing a handout, reviewed how to calculate ProRata amounts for Water and Sewer.

Mr. Purcell, providing another handout, also discussed the calculation of changes to FY '09 Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures, if the Sewer department switched to an Enterprise Account. It shows that the town would have a net gain of \$87,657.

Mr. Purcell went on to explain that this gain would be put back in to the General Government part of the budget, causing the percentage split between schools and general government to be 72% schools and 28% general government, as opposed to the typical 70-30 split.

Mr. Helmreich questioned the principle of this allocation of funds. A discussion followed.

Mr. Tarantino pointed out that this 72-28 split would only be in effect for one year, FY '09.

Mr. Purcell stated that he was strongly against splitting the \$87K credit between the schools and general government. He believes that the entirety of the credit should go to the general government part of the budget.

Mr. Purcell said that sewers should be a user pay system in order to be fair to taxpayers. He said it is also beneficial for the town. Mr. Helmreich stated that he is in favor of the Sewer dept. establishing an Enterprise Account.

Mr. Purcell mentioned that he would be recommending that no General Government funds be used for YMCA/Park & Rec. services.

Mr. Tarantino asked the FinCom to think about whether or not they thought that this was the right time for establishing an Enterprise Acct., and if they feel that the Sewer dept. can, in fact, cover their own costs. He also reminded the committee that if the Sewer dept. has a shortfall that all of that responsibility will go to the sewer users, and that the town *cannot* give the Enterprise Fund any money.

Mr. Purcell said that Mark Abraham's analysis of this situation will be complete within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Tarantino questioned whether or not public hearings would need to be held on the matter of the Sewer dept. going towards an Enterprise acct. Mr. Purcell said that he was unsure but would ask counsel and let the FinCom know.

III. Other

Saturday, April 5, 2008 there will be a tour of the schools beginning at 8am at the L.G. Nourse School.

If the FinCom desires to have it's photograph taken for the upcoming Town Report it needs to be done by March 21, 2008.

The next meeting of the Tri-Centennial Celebration committee meets at the public library on March 19, 2008 at 6:30 pm. They continue to look for a volunteer to represent the FinCom.

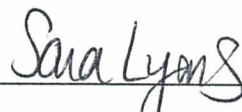
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Second by Mr. Bouchard. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary