

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

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Robert Bouchard.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes (done at end of meeting)

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the April 26, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Barletta abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the April 30, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the May 5, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

A. Planning Board Articles - Mr. Charles Gabriel, of the Planning Board, addressed the FinCom regarding the 2 Articles on the Town Meeting Warrant involving the re-zoning of areas in town. He said that they have had a public hearing on both Articles, bringing about questions, but no opposition, from residents.

Article 23 – West Main St. – Mr. Gabriel said that the Planning Board has voted unanimously to support this Article. He also said that the Planning Board has changed the zoning proposal slightly, per the FinCom's previous suggestions. The proposal is to re-zone the block (presently all houses and 2 businesses) from Industrial to Village Commercial. He said that the Planning Board zones for depth, not by lot lines. He said that this sometimes splits lots, but it is done this way for consistency throughout town.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 23 as outlined in the handout provided tonight by Mr. Gabriel. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Mr. Graf expressed his disagreement with zoning and splitting lots just because that's how it's always been done. Vote: 4 in favor, 4 abstaining (Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Graf, Mr. Barletta, and Mr. DeLuca). **Motion carries.**

Article 22 – Barrowsville area – Mr. Gabriel reviewed the proposed zoning change in this area. This would re-zone the outlined areas to Village Commercial. Mr. Gabriel said that this would stimulate development and provide more options for both residential and business uses. He said that this re-zoning proposal was initiated by the Planning Board, not by individual residents.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 22 as outlined in the handout provided tonight by Mr. Gabriel. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

B. Special Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Purcell provided the FinCom with 3 handouts – Funding Worksheet, Local Receipts, and Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures.

Article 3 – Mr. Purcell referenced the Funding Worksheet, showing the request for \$151,729 to come from Free Cash and for \$10,342 to be transferred from two Dog Fund Accounts from the May 2007 Town Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 3 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant as outlined in the Warrant and by Mr. Purcell tonight in the amounts of \$151,729 from Free Cash, and \$10,342 from the Dog Fund accounts. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

C. Other -

The handout of Local Receipts was reviewed. Mr. Purcell pointed out that the line "Other Departmental Revenue" in the amount of \$228,147 is slightly lower than previously estimated due to lowered expectations of School Medicare Receipts.

Mr. Purcell said that the Sewer subsidy has been lowered because of the recent Sewer rate increase on April 22nd.

He said that the Hicks Fund trustees voted May 1st for another \$20K (in addition to the usual \$100K) to be placed in as revenue for the town's Operating Budget.

Mr. Purcell said that the Capital Fund is more than was thought - \$737,478, not \$734K - because of interest accrues.

The wording of the Finance Committee's comment for Article 21 (Operating Budget) on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant was revised.

Mr. DeLuca said that he recently attended a meeting at the Library and that the Library Board voted to move \$134K from the town's Stabilization Account to the Library Account and will move this at the Annual Town Meeting on May 12th.

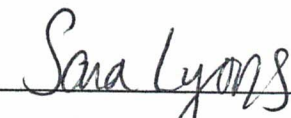
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2008 at 6:15pm in the Cafeteria of the Yelle School.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary