

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 17, 2008
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

Absent: Lynn Regan.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

II. New Business

A. Article 7 – Town Clerk's position - Ms. Diane Casagni, Town Clerk, and Ms. Anne Rodrigues addressed the FinCom regarding Article 7 on the Town Meeting Warrant. The Article is seeking to change the position of Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position.

Ms. Casagni said she feels changing the position from an elected one to an appointed one is not in the best interest of the town and the voters. She said that 78% of Town Clerk positions in the state are elected. Ms. Casagni said that she is already held accountable, that there are state guidelines that she is required to follow. She listed the various duties of a Town Clerk. She feels strongly that the duties of Town Clerk should be done without the influence of any appointing authority, and should be totally independent of any municipal body.

Mr. Thomas said that the FinCom should hear both sides of the issue before taking a vote. He anticipates that the Selectmen will discuss this issue tomorrow night at their meeting.

Mr. Tarantino suggested that a better time to discuss the change of the electing/appointing of the Clerk's position would be when Ms. Casagni retires.

B. Planning Board Articles 16, 17, & 18 – Mr. Charles Gabriel of the Planning Board addressed the FinCom regarding 3 Articles.

Article 16 – Chateau – because of a limited amount of parking, the Chateau Restaurant purchased an adjoining lot and is requesting that the zoning of that lot be changed (so they can pave it for additional parking). Mr. Gabriel said the planning board is looking to rezone the Chateau lots, as well as more adjoining lots down the road, to Village Commercial. Mr. Tarantino questioned whether there is a zoning by-law that determines the amount of area that can be zoned in relation to the size of the building on the lot. Mr. Gabriel said there is not.

Mr. Gabriel said that Conservation has not yet looked at this possible rezoning.

Article 17 – rezones land parcels from Commercial to Residential-60 to conform with surrounding parcels.

Article 18 – rezones land parcels from Industrial to Village Commercial and Residential-40.

Mr. Gabriel said that the Public Hearing for these possible zoning changes is September 23rd. Mr. Gabriel said that he would let the FinCom know the outcome.

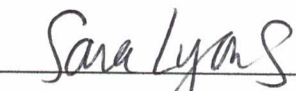
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2008 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary

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