

Finance Committee Meeting
January 21, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairman, Michael Thomas; Pasquale Barletta; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Paul Helmreich; Cheryl McFaun; Lynn Regan; Lee Tarantino; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Vice Chair, Wayne Graf; Robert Bouchard; Philip Zawasky.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:30 pm.

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

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the January 14, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. McFaun and Ms. Regan abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Special Town Meeting Articles:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills – 3 items, totaling \$1,363.18, as follows: \$62.40 for an advertising expense for the Fall '08 Town Meeting, \$613.28 for an HVAC repair, and \$687.50 for the Communications department for an emergency repair due to a power outage. The money for this article will come from Free Cash. Mr. Purcell said that the current Free Cash balance is \$1,206,779.

Motion made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$1,363.18. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Article 2 – Operating Budget Supplements – Mr. Purcell reviewed a handout detailing the amounts, which departments, and reasons for the budget supplements. The total amount is \$182,418, which includes \$120K for snow and ice removal. Since it is only January, it is very likely that more money will be needed to supplement the snow and ice budget for the upcoming months. However, this is the amount known to date. Mr. Barletta said he feels that the committee should pay the amount known now and then pay the rest later. Mr. Thomas asked for a vote to get a sense of the committee. There was a **unanimous vote of taking the money out now.**

Mr. Purcell said that there will be additional expenses needed to be covered under this article from the Communication Department due to the reorganization of the operating of the department. He will have the amount for this at the next meeting.

Article 3 – Salary Plan – there is one change being proposed: the Water Superintendent's salary range is currently \$70K-\$90K. The request is for the range to change to \$80K-\$100K. Mr. Purcell explained that in the second year of the Water Superintendent's contract (FY '10) the salary would be over \$90K. The FinCom said that they wanted to know what the percentage of this increase in salary is before they take a vote on the article.

Articles 4, 5, & 6 – Water/Sewer department – a representative is coming in next Monday to speak on these articles.

Article 7 – Arrowhead Village – this will remain on the warrant because petition articles must remain on the warrant, but it is defective in form, therefore the Town Moderator will likely rule No Action.

Motion made by Mr. DeLuca to take no action on Article 7. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich that the Finance Committee request the Town Manager to prepare a level services budget proposal for FY 2010 that reflects services in place as of January 1, 2009. In addition, the Finance Committee asks the Town Manager to estimate the additional funds beyond the level services budget that would allow the Town Library to maintain State Certification under the regulations in effect on January 1,

2009. **Second** by Mr. DeLuca. Discussion followed. Mr. Helmreich said that this would allow the FinCom to emphasize to the townspeople that level-services and level-funded are not the same thing. He wants to show what a level-services budget will cost. Ms. Regan suggested providing definitions of 'level-service' and 'level-budget' for voters. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Mr. Purcell informed the FinCom that their recommendations for the Special Town meeting Warrant are due on Friday, January 30th.

Mr. Purcell said that he believes that Monday, January 26th, will be the date that Governor Patrick will provide information on the amounts of cuts that will be made to local aid, specific to each town.

Next Meeting

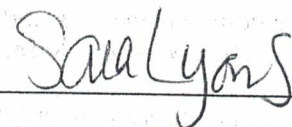
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 26, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Ms. Laura Pawle, representing the Water Department, will be in attendance to discuss the Water/Sewer dept. warrant articles.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Barletta to adjourn at 8:45pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary