

Finance Committee Meeting
March 23, 2009
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; Lynn Regan; Lee Tarantino; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

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Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

MAY 29 2009

NORTON TOWN CLERK

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the March 18, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard and Ms. Regan abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Mr. Purcell reminded the FinCom that the Planning Board plans to hold a public hearing on April 7th.

Mr. Purcell reviewed the Water Reimbursement Services stating that the Water Pro Rata/Total Budget rate will be 6.21% for FY10 and the Pro Rata/Total Payroll rate will be 2.24%. He said that the Water dept. will pay for their gas and fuel directly, not through the general government budget. The total for Water reimbursement would be \$218,249 for FY10.

Mr. Purcell said that an additional \$59,184 will be needed from Free Cash for snow and ice removal. This brings the total expended for this to approximately \$260K. Therefore, Mr. Purcell said that the Free Cash strategy is now revised to approximately \$500K b/c of this additional need for the Snow and Ice budget.

Board of Assessors

The FinCom read a letter from the Board of Assessors concerning Article 3. The Board of Assessors are requesting \$25,000 for the purpose of the cyclical measure and list of all properties in town to evaluate new growth, as mandated by the Department of Revenue.

Motion was made Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 3 in the amount of \$25,000. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Capital Improvements Appropriations

Motion was made Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$127,499 to be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund for Article 12. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Stabilization Fund Appropriations

Motion was made Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$0 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund for Article 5. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

III. Conservation Commission – Article 5

Members of the Conservation Commission/ Open Space Committee, as well as the Tree Warden, addressed the FinCom regarding Article 5. Members present were Jim Hendrickson, Chair of the Open Space Committee, Joan Guererro and Patricia McLeod, both members of the Open Space Committee, as well as Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent and Mike Tierney, Tree Warden. They are proposing the establishing of a revolving fund

Hire a local forester to conduct a selective salvage of Lincoln Woods and the Town Forest. The benefits expected are to enhance the existing habitat, to regenerate the forest, wildlife and habitat, as well as to reduce

the threat of fire. Income from the harvest will pay the forester who will prepare the cut, mark trees, and manage the logging company, among other duties.

The estimate for forestry plans for both parcels is \$4,500.

This is a self-funding account. When asked, Mr. Hendrickson said that possibly, eventually this could become a source of income for the town. He also said that the forester will not be an employee of the town and the town will not be liable if anything happens. Mr. Hendrickson said that the town will be able to get out of the contract if they are not satisfied with the work of the forester.

This revolving fund would be for all forestry projects, including Conservation as well as Tree Warden projects.

IV. Fixed General Government Expenses – Budget Votes

Motion made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #132-502 (Reserve Fund - Transfers) in the amount of \$150,000. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Bouchard to recommend account #151-520 (Legal Services – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$80,000. Mr. Helmreich said that he feels this amount is not going to be enough. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #158-570 (Tax Title Foreclosure – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$40,000. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #176-560 (SE REG Plan & Econ. Dev. - Assessment) in the amount of \$2,914. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #195-520 (Town Report - Printing) in the amount of \$3,000. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #244-570 (Sealer Weights – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$2,000. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #425-570 (Street Lighting – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$102,000. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #438-570 (Sealer Weights – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$3,956. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

V. Misc. Town Officers and Town Expenses – Budget Votes

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #156-570 (Web Committee – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$100. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend account #177-570 (Zoning Board of Appeals – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$300. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Graf to recommend account #294-510 (Tree Warden – Personal Service) in the amount of \$2,000. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #691-50 (Historical Comm. – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$300. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #692-570 (Memorial & Vets Day – Other Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$1,500. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion made by Mr. Zawasky to recommend account #693-570 (Historical Dist. Comm. – Charges and Expenditures) in the amount of \$300. Second by Mr. Barletta. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

VI. Announcements/Other

Mr. Helmreich asked Mr. Purcell for a comment/explanation on the fact that Norton did not receive any funds from the general stimulus plan. Mr. Purcell said that he plans to address this topic further at the next meeting. The Fire Department is holding an Open House on this Thursday night, the 26th. The School Board is holding a presentation on the Future of the Norton Public Schools on Monday, the 30th in the Middle School cafeteria.

Next Meeting

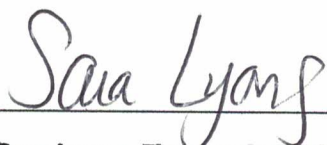
The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Mr. Purcell said that he would try to schedule the Water Department to appear before the Committee on Wednesday.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary