

Finance Committee Meeting
May 18, 2009
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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

Absent: Robert Bouchard; Cheryl McFaun.

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Graf to approve the May 4, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Regan and Mr. Tarantino abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the May 6, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Library Budget - Mr. Herb Ellison, President of the Board of Directors for the Norton Public Library, addressed the Finance Committee regarding the FY10 budget. He provided the FinCom with some handouts outlining the budget and duties performed by the library employees.

He reminded the FinCom that the library budget was cut 35% for FY09 from \$452K to \$295K. Mr. Ellison reviewed the proposed library budget for FY10 as a level-funded budget. He said that this would allow the library to continue the services that they currently have. He said that the library would need \$404,890 for full certification, and would need \$372,852 to allow the library to be open 40 hours.

Mr. Ellison said that the library employees are non-union. He said they currently pay 13% for their health care benefits and that will go to 20% for FY10.

III. Other Business

Local Aid – Mr. Purcell, though he was not in attendance, provided the FinCom with an updated Local Aid Estimate. It showed the FY10 Governor's Budget at \$15,845,421, the House at \$16,026,603, and the Senate Ways and Means at \$15,052,176. Mr. Thomas said that there would not be a final budget amount in time for the June 8th Town Meeting. He said that a possibility is that everything but the budget would be voted on and then the Town Meeting would recess for a couple of weeks. When the Town Meeting reconvened, the hope would be that a firmer/final number for Local Aid would be available on which to base the town's budget. Mr. Helmreich said that he feels that Mr. Purcell should form a budget that could be used as something to work with in the instance that a firm Local Aid number is not available.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend that the Town Manager prepare an emergency budget for use for the Town Meeting and to have in place in the case that final Local Aid budget is not determined by July 1st. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Discussion followed. Mr. DeLuca said he feels that \$15,500,000 would be a reasonable guess with which to work. He said that this would still leave an \$800K deficit, with the schools taking a cut of \$500K+ and the general government taking a cut of about \$250K. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

LED signs – The FinCom decided to wait on taking a vote until all members have the final wording of how the article will read.

FinCom Recommendations for Annual Town Meeting Warrant – The committee reviewed the articles and the vote taken on each.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider Article 15 (Stabilization Fund Appropriation). Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to vote 'not recommended' due to the fact that there are not any funds available for appropriations to the Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

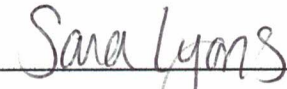
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 7:30pm. The Public Hearing will be held at this meeting. Also, the Recreation Department will address the FinCom at this meeting.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary