

NORTON TOWN CLERK

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## Finance Committee Meeting

September 30, 2009

7:30 PM

Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

**Present:** Chairman, Wayne Graf; Vice-Chairman, Thomas DeLuca; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Paul Helmreich; Michael Thomas; Lee Tarantino; Town Manager, James Purcell.

**Absent:** Cheryl McFaul; Lynn Regan; Philip Zawasky.

### Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

### I. New Business

Mr. Purcell reviewed the **Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures** worksheet, noting the changes between the Spring Town Meeting estimates and the Fall Town Meeting projected amounts. He pointed out that expenditure for the Charter School increased by over \$115K its projected amount. Mr. Purcell also stated that both Local Receipts and Local Aid are down.

Mr. Purcell informed the FinCom that the certified **Free Cash** amount is \$1,021,884. He reviewed where Free Cash would be used if approved at the upcoming October Town Meeting, as follows:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills - \$7,761.71

Article 4 – FY10 Operating Budget - \$345,782

Article 7 – GASB - \$11K

Articles 12 & 13 – Rubin Drive and Beverly Lane – \$2.00, \$1.00 each to take title

### **Article 11 – Wetlands Protection article**

Ms. Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent, and Mr. Ronald O'Reilly, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, re-addressed the FinCom regarding the wetlands article. Mr. O'Reilly said that this bylaw would not be unique because 4 other surrounding towns (Easton, Mansfield, Foxboro, and Sharon) that also get their drinking water from the Canoe River have a similar bylaw in place already. Ms. Carlino stated that the ConCom has been discussing the possibility of this bylaw for years. She said that the main goal of the bylaw would be to protect the drinking water and ground water in Norton. She went on to explain that the bylaw would restrict work (cutting, clearing, construction) within 100 feet of any wetlands. She said that with this bylaw the ConCom would be able to do a more effective job of reinforcing the current state wetland guidelines.

Mr. Helmreich questioned whether the 'repairing', not expanding, of an existing structure would be affected by this bylaw, noting the wording of the proposed bylaw section 'Exceptions'. Ms. Carlino said that the ConCom will review that section before Town Meeting and stated that the intention of the Committee was not to restrict repairs.

Ms. Carlino addressed the early example of poison ivy being a wetlands plant. She said that was an exaggeration of the bylaw's opposers.

She said that in most cases, the bylaws would be reinforced by a notice being sent to the offending resident telling the resident to let the area grow back. There would be a follow-up visit to the property to ensure the resident is compliant.

Mr. Helmreich said that he believes that this bylaw is important now because most of the land in Norton that can be developed has been.

### **Warrant Article Votes**

**Article 1 – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to untable Article 1. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 1, Unpaid Bills, in the amount of \$7,761.71 to be transferred from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Article 3 – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend 'no action' be taken on this article. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**



**Article 4 – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the budget supplement portion of Article 4, as follows: Town Manager-Expense - \$300, Town Manager-Salary - \$5K, Sanitary Landfill-Purchase Services - \$9,800, Council on Aging-Salary - \$500, Veteran's Services-Expense - \$14,400, yielding a total of \$30,000. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. **Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend 2 transfers, as a part of Article 4, as follows: Finance Committee, transfer from Salary to Expense - \$100, and Data Processing, transfer from Expense to Salary - \$24,250, yielding a total of \$24,350 in transfers. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the transfer of \$315,782 to the operating budget for the deficit in earlier projected numbers. This would bring the total coming from Free Cash in Article 4 to \$345,782. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.

**Article 7 – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$11K from Free Cash to fund the federally mandated GASB. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Article 11 – Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 11. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Mr. Thomas expressed that, though he feels this article is well intentioned, he has concerns about the regulatory power this article gives the Conservation Committee, noting that it's not just the current ConCom that should be considered by voters but possible future committees. Mr. Tarantino said that he agrees with protecting the town's wetlands, but feels that more information needs to be provided. Vote: In favor – Mr. Graf, Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Bouchard, Ms. Desrochers, and Mr. Helmreich; Against – Mr. Thomas and Mr. Tarantino; Mr. Barletta abstained. **Motion carries.**

## **II. Other Business**

Dog officer – Mr. Purcell said that the advertisement for position for Dog Officer yielded multiple applicants and he will most likely hire 2 people as part-time assistant dog officers.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the September 28, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard abstaining. **Motion carries.**

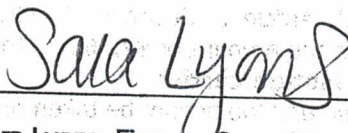
## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2009 at 6:00pm at the Yelle School cafeteria preceding the Annual Town Meeting.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary