

## Finance Committee Meeting

February 24, 2010

7:30 PM

Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

**Absent:** Michael Flaherty; Cheryl McFaun; Philip Zawasky.

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the September 30, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the October 5, 2009 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard abstaining. **Motion carries.**

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

**Motion** was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the January 12, 2010 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

### **II. New Business**

**Industrial Development Committee** - Mr. Graf informed the FinCom members that Mr. Gouveia, Town Moderator, has requested the FinCom to designate 2 people to be on the Charter Review Committee, in time to be announced for the upcoming Town Meeting. Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Tarantino volunteered to be members of the committee.

Mr. Graf mentioned that there is an updated Ethics Reform Law that will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Articles 12-17, Board of Assessors** - Ms. Suzan Duggan, from the Board of Assessors, addressed the FinCom regarding Articles 12-17 on the warrant. These articles, with the exception of Article 12, address tax exemptions for veterans and senior citizens.

**Article 12 – Triennial Revaluation** - \$86K is being requested to finish up the town's revaluation, \$38K of which will finish re-listing the rest of the town. Ms. Duggan noted that the revaluation yields the town twice as much as it costs.

**Article 13 – Veterans' Organizations Exemptions** – this article will allow for veteran's organizations to receive an exemption of up to \$700K.

**Article 14 – Tax Exemption for Seniors** – this article will increase the tax exemption for single seniors up to the maximum allowed. It will increase the income limit up to \$20K and increase the exemption amount up to \$1K.

**Article 15 – Tax Exemption for Seniors** – this article would authorize an annual increase in the gross receipts income and whole estate limits for exemptions granted, by the cost of living adjustment (COLA) of the previous year.

**Article 16 – Tax Exemption for Seniors** – this article has less strict qualifications for eligibility, based on only assets not income. It would authorize an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses, and surviving minors, by 100% of the COLA.

*Article 17* – Tax Exemption for Seniors – this article is the same as Article 16, except it is for whole estate assets.

**Review of Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures** - Mr. Purcell reviewed the Est. Operating Rev. & Expenditures worksheet with the FinCom stating that for FY11 the projected Total Tax to be Raised and Appropriated is \$26,416,994.

Mr. Purcell said that Local Aid reflects moderate growth, but when local assessments are taken into account, there is still a significant deficit. He said that there has been an increase of \$213,259 in Charter School tuition, and \$13,500 in School Choice.

Mr. Purcell noted the decrease in Local Receipts, but said he anticipates the new hotel and meal tax will have a beneficial impact, amount to be determined.

Mr. Purcell said that he anticipates that the House Ways and Means should release Local Aid amounts in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Purcell stated that Health insurance will be level-funded for FY11.

#### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles -**

*Article 2* – Chapter 90 – Highway Department, road and municipal improvements

*Article 3* – Acceptance of Rubin Drive

*Article 4* – Dr. Ansary will further discuss this article.

*Article 5* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund – Mansfield Ave. property

*Article 6* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund – Tree Warden, forest harvesting

*Article 7* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund – Historical Commission

*Article 8* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund - Board of Health, Composting Bins

*Article 9* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund – Highway Department, recycling activities

*Article 10* – Re-authorization of a revolving fund – Fire Department, Hazardous Materials

*Article 11* – Appropriation of up to \$10K for Hazardous Materials Day

*Article 12-17* (outlined by Ms. Duggan above)

*Article 18* – McGinn Property – the McGinn family wants to gift the property to the town. The property abuts the Shpack site and the town needs to make sure the site meets standards from both federal (which it does), as well as state.

*Article 19* – Petition of John Freeman

*Article 20* – Personnel bylaws and Salary Plans

*Article 21* – Sewer Stabilization Account – Mr. Purcell stated that the town is in active negotiations with Norton Glen to tie in to the sewer system. He said that the funds from that project would be deposited into this "Sewer Stabilization Fund".

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Mr. Purcell said he anticipates some dramatic increases in sewer expenses in the immediate future. He also pointed out that the sewer expenses are not completely covered by the sewer income, and that the gap is growing. He said that this Stabilization account would help to balance that out.

*Article 22* – Sewer Enterprise Account – this article may be dropped from the warrant

*Article 23* – Land acquisitions – for the purpose of wastewater disposal and expansion of the sewer treatment facility.

*Article 24* – Feasibility Study for NHS – for grant eligibility for an addition and extensive renovations to NHS

*Article 25* – Water Department Budget – rate calculations are being worked on

*Article 26-27* – Capital Items

*Article 28* – Budget

*Article 29* – Stabilization Fund

*Article 30* – Debra White petition for re-zoning

*Article 31* – Zoning bylaw

*Article 32* – Water Resource Protection

*Article 33* – Wetlands Protection

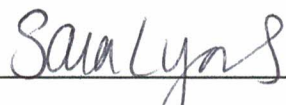
#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2010 at 7:30pm.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous.  
**Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary