

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**April 25, 2011**  
**7:30 PM**  
**7:45 PM – Public Hearing**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

**Present:** Chair, Thomas DeLuca; Vice-Chair, Paul Helmreich; Robert Camp; Michael Flaherty; Brett Franklin (late arrival); William Rotondi; Lee Tarantino; Wayne Graf.  
Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

**Absent:** Jackie Desrochers; Michael Thomas.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Graf to approve the April 20, 2011 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

**Report of the Norton Finance Committee**

Mr. Helmreich provided a draft of the Report of the Norton Finance Committee for the committee to review before submitting for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting warrant for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Graf to approve Mr. Helmreich's Report of the Norton Finance Committee, changing "In the fall of 2011" to "In the fall of 2010" in the opening paragraph. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**\*\*\*7:45 – Public Hearing open**

Mr. DeLuca gave an overview of the Annual Town Meeting warrant, specifically the FY12 budget. He noted that there will not be any layoffs and there will not be any salary increases in any budget. Mr. DeLuca pointed out that the Library would be receiving enough funding that would allow them to apply for recertification and that the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation Commission are both doing very well while relying on many volunteers.

There were not any questions.

**\*\*\*7:50 – Public Hearing closed**

**Reserve Fund Transfer Requests**

**Fire Department** – Chief Gomes discussed the need for the transfer. He said that a transfer of \$82K would allow for the Chartley Fire Station to remain open until June 1<sup>st</sup>. It would reopen again July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new fiscal year begins. Chief Gomes explained that a transfer of \$52K would allow the station to be open a little while longer, with a probable closing in May. Chief Gomes noted that there are presently 6 people who are out (for various reasons) and the transfer would pay for the overtime that is needed.

Mr. Helmreich suggested funding the \$82K for the Fire Department and not funding the transfer requested for Legal Services. He said that the committee could wait and see if that department goes over budget and if it does, fund it as an Unpaid Bill in October.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend a transfer of \$82K from the Finance Committee Reserve account to the Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Franklin abstaining.

**Motion carries.**

**Legal Services - Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend a transfer of \$25K from the Finance Committee Reserve account to Legal Services. Seconded by Mr. Camp. Vote: All opposed, with Mr. Franklin abstaining. **Motion fails.**

### **Town Clerk – Annual and Special Town Meetings**

Mr. Yunits reminded the FinCom that the town clerk has requested that, in anticipation of a larger amount of voters, the 2 town meetings be moved to the high school, therefore necessitating the renting of chairs.

Mr. Helmreich expressed that he does not think that the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will have a large crowd and that there is no reason to move the location. A permanent solution of buying chairs for the High School was discussed but it was concluded that there is no storage for them in that building.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend a transfer of \$1,956.25 from the Finance Committee Reserve account to the Town Clerk for the Annual Town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Graf and Mr. Camp opposed and Mr. Franklin abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend a transfer of \$1,956.25 from the Finance Committee Reserve account to the Town Clerk for the Annual Town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Camp opposed. **Motion carries.**

### **Veteran's Benefits –**

Mr. Yunits explained that there is \$4,500 needed for unseen benefits and \$5,500 for encumbrances, a total of \$10K.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend a transfer of \$10K from the Finance Committee Reserve account to account #543 (Veteran's). Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

### May 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting Warrant

#### **Article 13 – Stabilization Fund –**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend No Action on Article 13 because of a lack of funds. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 14 – Capital Improvements Appropriation -**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend No Action on Article 14. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 15 – Capital Improvements Plan –**

A handout was provided, outlining the recommendations from the Capital Improvements Committee totaling \$381,878, funded by both the Capital Improvements Funds as well as the Ambulance Reserve Fund.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$381,878 for the Capital Improvements Plan, with \$273,878 coming from the Capital Improvement Fund and \$108K coming from the Ambulance Reserve Fund. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the Selectmen have yet to vote on the road acceptance requests for Articles 17 and 18.

#### **Article 17 – Street Acceptance –**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend No Action on Article 17 because of insufficient information. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 18 – Street Acceptance –**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend No Action on Article 18 because of insufficient information. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 19 – Snow Removal -**

Mr. Yunits said that the Selectmen would be discussing this article on Thursday night.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 19 as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Mr. Helmreich, Mr. DeLuca, and Mr. Tarantino in favor; Mr. Camp, Mr. Rotondi, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Graf, and Mr. Flaherty opposed. **Motion fails.**

Special Town Meeting Warrant

**Article 1 – Operating Budget Supplements**

Operating budget supplements were reviewed per handout, totaling \$177,997 with funds going to Snow Removal, Street Lighting, Data Processing, and Reserve Fund.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting warrant, totaling \$177,997. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**III. Old Business**

Mr. Tarantino informed the FinCom that he has looked into the retirement numbers that were presented by Mr. Savas, School Committee, at an earlier meeting and feels that the information was incomplete. Mr. Savas got the information from the DOE website, but Mr. Tarantino let the FinCom know that all towns do not report full information so the compilation of numbers is likely skewed.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2011 at 6:00pm, preceding Town Meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

**Documents Referenced:** Minutes of April 20, 2011  
Annual Town Meeting warrant  
Special town Meeting warrant  
Draft of the Report of the Norton Finance Committee  
Reserve Fund transfers

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tom DeLuca, Finance Committee Chair**

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**Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary**