

Finance Committee Meeting
March 28, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Robert Camp; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Stephen Evans; Michael Flaherty; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Wayne Graf.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to approve the March 21, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Carignan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Flaherty, and Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to approve the March 26, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Camp and Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Mr. Helmreich informed the committee that he had spoken with Town Accountant, Mr. James Puello, and relayed that Mr. Puello said that he would like to see all budget amounts rounded up to the next highest dollar.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to allow rounding adjustments to the next highest dollar for account #s 122,141,147, 161,175, 230. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

A discussion was had on the Town Clerk's request for an increase in funding for FY13 and it was clarified that the increase is to fund an increase of hours for the Town Clerk position to full time, and if voted as such it would be in compliance with the 1% increase that other departments are receiving.

Public Hearing –

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to have the Public Hearing on the FY13 budget on April 25th at 7:45. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Operating Budget/Town Meeting Requests –

#123 – Town Manager – Mr. Yunits reviewed the new budget amounts including \$183,729 for Salaries, and \$7,500 for Expenses.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #123-510 in the amount of \$183,729. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Thomas abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #123-570 in the amount of \$7,500. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#300 – School Department – Mr. Helmreich stated that he is in support of the proposed FY13 School budget of \$23,235,959. He said he feels that the town needs to try to get as close as they can to be able to fund this request. Both Mr. Tarantino and Mr. DeLuca noted that the \$500K+ in additional funding would need to come from somewhere and questioned where cuts can be made in other parts of the budget in order to fund this budget. Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that both Chapter 70 Aid and Transportation Aid from the state have been requested to be increased by our legislators.

When it was pointed out that the School Department salaries have increased more than the 1% that the rest of the town departments have requested, Mr. Yunits noted that the School contract also includes educational step increases.

Mr. Tarantino said that the FinCom's responsibility is to vote on a balanced budget and suggested voting on the Town Manager's recommendation and then adding more funding to the School Department in the fall if funds become available. He said he would want the School Department to be top on the list of where additional funds would go.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #300 in the amount of \$23,235,959. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: In favor – Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Rotondi, Mr. Carignan, Mr. Evans, and Ms. Desrochers; Opposed – Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Camp, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Tarantino, and Mr. DeLuca. **Motion FAILS.**

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #300 in the amount of \$22,686,668. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: In favor – Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Tarantino, and Mr. DeLuca; Opposed – Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Rotondi, Mr. Carignan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Camp, and Ms. Desrochers. **Motion FAILS.**

Further discussion was had on the School budget. It was noted that School employees need to be notified of layoffs by (approximately) June 15th.

Motion was made by Mr. Camp to table the School Department budget conversation until the April 11th meeting. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: 9 members in favor, with Mr. Rotondi opposed. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Yunits said that the House budget should be available by Patriot's Day.

Mr. Rotondi asked that the committee invite Dr. Ansary back to speak on what the results of budget cuts would mean for the School Department.

#306 – Southeastern Regional School District –

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #306-560 in the amount of \$1,102,073. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: 10 members in favor, with Mr. Rotondi opposed. **Motion carries.**

#308 – Regional Agricultural School -

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #308-560 in the amount of \$22,638. Seconded by Mr. Camp. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#610 – Library -

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #610-570 in the amount of \$328,064. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca.

After some discussion, an amendment to the original motion was made.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #610-570 in the amount of \$337,175. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers.

Vote on the amendment: In favor - Ms. Desrochers, Mr. Carignan, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Tarantino, and Mr. Helmreich; Opposed - Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Rotondi, Mr. Evans, Mr. Flaherty, and Mr. Camp. **Amendment FAILS.**

Vote on the original motion: In favor - Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Evans, Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Tarantino, Mr. Carignan, Mr. Thomas; Opposed - Ms. Desrochers, Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Camp; Abstained - Mr. Rotondi. **Original motion** (in the amount of \$328,064) **carries.**

Article 4 – Inspection Department –

Mr. Yunits explained that the state now allows part-time town inspectors to also conduct their trade work within the same town as long as their own work is inspected by another town inspector.

Mr. Tarantino expressed that he feels uneasy about this because of how often it is reported that problems arise within inspection departments. Mr. Tarantino did note that the reasoning of the article does make sense though.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend Article 4. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 8 members in favor, with Mr. Camp opposed and Mr. Carignan abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. Camp. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of March 21, 2012
Minutes of March 26, 2012
Budgets for account #s 123, 300, 306, 308, 610

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary