

Finance Committee Meeting
April 11, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Michael Flaherty; Wayne Graf; William Rotondi.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Robert Camp; Stephen Evans; Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the March 28, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Graf abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

• **Reserve Fund Transfer – Town Clerk**

Mr. Yunits explained that information on Articles 21 and 22 (Water and Sewer) was omitted from the prior Town Charter mailing. There is an additional \$2,164 needed for printing and \$1,310 for postage.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to transfer \$1,310 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to account #001-199-570-5341 for postage. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to transfer \$2,164 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to account #001-162-570-5701 for printing. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

• **Local Aid –**

Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with the Local Aid Funding Report from the House Ways and Means which was released today. He noted that the amount for Chapter 70 is an increase of \$112,120 over FY12, and that the amount for UGGA (Unrestricted General Government Aid) is an increase of \$127,108 over FY12. He said that, though this is good news, he is also waiting to see if the expense side went up as well.

Mr. Helmreich noted that the House budget usually tends to be the closest to the actual figure. He asked that Mr. Yunits get updated revenue estimates from all departments for the next FinCom meeting.

• **Legal Services –**

Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with a detailed spreadsheet of FY12 spendings of the Legal Services account, noting that the present balance is \$3,320.40.

• **Street Lighting –**

Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with a detailed spreadsheet of FY12 spendings of the Street Lighting account, noting that the present balance is \$20,818.46.

• **Chapter 90 Funding for FY13 –**

Mr. Yunits provided the FinCom with correspondence from the Office of the Governor certifying Norton’s Chapter 90 as \$563,336, “based on the passage of the bond bill”.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Mr. Yunits reviewed the Special Town Meeting warrant articles as follows:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills

There is a bill from the Fire Department for \$58.26 and a bill for Street Lighting for \$62.84.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 2 in the amount of \$121.10 to come from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 2 – FY12 Operating Budget Supplements

Mr. Yunits said that this article would likely be comprised of small amounts but that he would like to wait to review this with the FinCom once he has reviewed this with all town departments.

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Contracts

There are 2 one-year contracts – the Clerical union and the Highway/Water/Sewer union. There is no salary increase and there is an increase in employee responsibility for PPOs.

The Clerical union is being given one more personal day. The Highway/Water/Sewer union change is in the over-time account. Employees will be paid double time for hours worked after 16 consecutive hours. Mr. Yunits noted that this would be in the case of a storm/emergency.

Town counsel said that these contracts need to be voted upon at town meeting even though there is no money involved. Mr. Tarantino explained that the town meeting vote is for the funding of the contracts, *not* the contract itself.

Mr. Graf pointed out that the article presently reads as saying “appropriate and/or transfer of sums”. Mr. Yunits said that the article would be re-written to say “ratify”.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the implementation of Article 3 with \$0 funding. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 4 – Transfer School Insurance Money

This is for the cost of the Yelle School gym floor repair from last year.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to transfer \$98,430.89 from the Insurance recovery Account (#253-300-100) to the Norton Public Schools budget (#001-300-570). Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 5 – Hazardous Waste Day

Mr. Helmreich checked the October 2011 Town Meeting warrant and found that this Hazardous Waste day was voted then in the amount of \$10K. Mr. Yunits said that he would double check with the Board of Health, and that possibly there is more funding needed.

Article 6 – Pino’s Cove

Article 7 – Tree Services

Mr. Yunits explained that this article is for chainsaw maintenance and removal of old trees. He said a lot of power outages during last summer’s storms were due to old trees falling on power lines.

The request is for \$23,325 and \$400/day for police detail.

He recommends a total of \$23,325, and for this to come from Free Cash.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$23,325 to come from Free Cash and go to the Highway Expense account. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider Article 7. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$23,325 to come from Free Cash for tree removal. Seconded by Mr. Tarantino. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 8 – SHPACK

Mr. Yunits said that he would get this balance for the next meeting.

Article 9 – Street Acceptance

The committee decided to wait until everyone else (in particular the Selectmen) has signed off on this street acceptance.

Article 10 – JCS Roof

Mr. Yunits said there would be more information coming soon. He said that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$563+, but that the town’s share of that would be about half.

III. Old Business

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles –

Article 2 – Chapter 90 Funds

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 2 in the amount of \$563,336. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 5 – Codification

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All opposed. **Motion FAILS.**

Article 13 – Capital Improvements Appropriation

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 13 in the amount of \$0. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 14 – FY13 Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Yunits stated that the Capital Improvements Committee met last night and they feel they may need more planning, particularly on the JCS roof replacement.

He reviewed the Proposed FY13 Capital Budget spreadsheet as well as his recommendations. One of the items questioned by the FinCom was the \$17,570 for the (10) turnout gear replacements for the Fire Department. Mr. Tarantino questioned whether this should be actually be a budget expense item because each one costs only \$1,757, not making it a capital item.

The total Capital Request is \$257,073.

The total Ambulance Reserve Fund is \$19,750.

The total Water is \$375,000.

The total Sewer is \$181,400.

This yields a total of \$833,223, which includes everything but the JCS roof.

Mr. Flaherty, the FinCom representative on the Capital Improvements Committee, reported that the current balance in the Capital Improvements Fund is \$626,189. Mr. Helmreich went on to list the following balances: \$923,739 in Stabilization, \$888,726 in Free Cash, and \$427,108 in Ambulance Reserve.

Articles 15 and 16 – Water and Sewer Articles

Mr. Helmreich noted that unofficially the FinCom has agreed on the budgets but are waiting to vote until they have the actual town meeting motions from counsel. Mr. Yunits said that he would have the motions for next week's meeting.

Article 18 – By-laws Amendment: Personnel

This is for non-union positions. Mr. Yunits said that he is waiting for the outcome of the election that determines whether the Town Clerk's position remains elected or becomes appointed.

Mr. Helmreich noted that the FinCom voted the town clerk's budget as if the position changed to appointed.

Article 19 – Stabilization Fund

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 19 in the amount of \$0. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

IV. Announcements

Mr. Helmreich informed the committee that Ms. Bradshaw, a candidate from the Mashpee School System, has been selected as Norton Public Schools' new Superintendent.

Mr. Tarantino announced that the Charter Review Committee will be having meetings tomorrow, April 12th and April 17th to answer any questions the town voters may have on the Charter changes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of March 28, 2012
Reserve Transfer Request – Town Clerk
Local Aid worksheet
Legal Services spreadsheet
Street Lighting spreadsheet
Chapter 90 funding correspondence
Special Town Meeting warrant
Annual town Meeting warrant

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary