

Finance Committee Meeting
April 23, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

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

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Stephen Evans.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

II. New Business

Mr. Yunits handed out meeting materials and gave an overview of recent budgetary changes and votes taken.

Council on Aging –

Mr. Helmreich stated that the FinCom previously voted to recommend \$7,960 for Expenses in the CoA account for FY13, but then moved \$1,160 back to Salaries to cover the employee working for the Fuel Assistance program.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider FY13 budget account #541. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. After some discussion, Mr. Tarantino **withdrew his motion** of reconsideration to table the discussion for a later date.

A discussion was had on what to do with leftover Free Cash. It was decided to discuss this further at the next meeting.

III. Old Business

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles -

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreements

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend NO ACTION for Article 3. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor.

Motion carries.

Article 6 – Transfer for 40B

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend NO ACTION for Article 6 due to a lack of funds. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 14 – Capital Plan

Mr. Yunits reviewed the recommendations of the Capital Improvements Committee, including the roof repair for the J.C. Solmonese School for \$539,340.

Mr. Helmreich noted that if the figures recommended by the Capital Improvements Committee are voted, \$369,116 would be left in the Capital Improvements account.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 14, Capital Improvements, in the following amounts:

Total Capital Request - \$257,073

Total Ambulance Res. Fund - \$19,750

Total Borrowing - \$539,340

Total Water - \$375,000

Total Sewer - \$181,400

For a total amount of \$1,372,563. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 15 – Water

Mr. Helmreich reviewed the proposed FY13 Water budget as follows: \$674,443 for Personal Services; \$264,771 for Indirect Expenses; \$1,011,772 for Other Charges and Expenditures; \$375,000 for Capital Outlay; and \$1,222,725 for Debt Service, for a total of \$3,548,711.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend Article 15 in the amount of \$3,548,711. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 16 – Sewer

Mr. Helmreich reviewed the proposed FY13 Sewer budget as follows: \$151,891 for Personal Services; \$74,845 for Indirect Expenses; \$769,417 for Other Charges and Expenditures; \$181,400 for Capital Outlay; \$0 for Debt Service; and \$489,544 for Budget Surplus, for a total of \$1,667,097.

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend Article 16 in the amount of \$1,667,097. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Veteran's Reimbursement Funds

Mr. Yunits explained that he spoke with the town's Veteran's Agent, who spoke with the state, and the town should be receiving \$162K. He said that he is still unsure of when the town would actually receive these funds.

Mr. Helmreich said that the FinCom would discuss this further at the next meeting.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles -

Article 2 – Operating Budget Supplements

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend NO ACTION for Article 2. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 5 – Pino Land Gift

Mr. Yunits explained that residents of the area have asked that signs be placed stating No Parking in certain areas, etc. Mr. Kimball, Selectman, stated that the town does not need to buy this property for \$1, that it would be gifted to the town. He also said that it was decided to call the area "Pino's Cove" and that the Pino family has said that they would pay for a sign to be made stating it as such. He commented on the generosity of the Pino family in gifting this to the town.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 7 – MBTA to SHPACK

It was decided to wait to vote on this article because it was shown that there was \$1K spent on something and it is unsure what exactly that was. Mr. Yunits said he would find out and get back to the FinCom.

Article 8 – Johnson Road Acceptance

Mr. Helmreich said he would like to wait to vote on this article until the Conservation Commission votes on it, which is happening tonight.

Article 9 – JCS Roof

There was a discussion on whether this article was needed or if the Capital Improvements article was sufficient. It was decided that the roof repair should not be included in the Capital Improvements article.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to reconsider Article 14 of the Annual town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 14, Capital Improvements, in the following amounts:

Total Capital Request - \$257,073

Total Ambulance Res. Fund - \$19,750

Total Water - \$375,000

Total Sewer - \$181,400

(Reducing the previous vote by \$539,340, the cost of the roof), for a total amount of \$833,223. Seconded by Mr.

Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 9 to borrow \$539,340 of the repair of the JCS roof. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Highway Department

Mr. Keith Silva, Highway Superintendent, addressed the FinCom about the cut that was made last meeting to the highway seasonal position. He expressed his displeasure of the \$2,235 reduction.

Mr. Helmreich said that he does not want to consider changing the amount tonight, but would possibly consider adding funds back if more funds became available in the future.

Mr. Rotondi questioned what the School Department is able/allowed to do with the \$1.1M in gift and grant money they receive. Mr. Yunits said that he would find out and get this information to the FinCom.

Police Department

Chief Brian Clark addressed the FinCom, referring to a letter he sent today expressing his displeasure with not receiving the funding requested. Mr. Helmreich said that when the anticipated Veteran's money comes in, the Police Department is one of the top on the list of places it would go.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2012 at 7:30pm. This meeting will include the public hearing on the FY13 budget.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

- Annual Town Meeting warrant
- Special town Meeting warrant
- Chief Clark's letter
- Capital Improvements worksheets
- Water and Sewer budgets

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary