

Finance Committee Meeting
April 25, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room

Present: Chair, Paul Helmreich; Vice-Chair, Lee Tarantino; Robert Camp; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Stephen Evans; Michael Flaherty; Wayne Graf; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Jackie Desrochers.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Yunits distributed and gave a quick overview of the materials for the meeting, mentioning that the \$162K figure from the state for Veteran's Benefits is definite.

7:45 – Meeting was recessed for the Public Hearing on the budget.

8:20 – Meeting reconvened.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

II. New Business

III. Old Business

Reconsideration of FY13 Budgets –

#541 – Council on Aging – Mr. Yunits recommended to revote this budget and put \$800 in part-time wages and leave the rest.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to reconsider account #541. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #541-510 in the amount of \$800. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend account #541-570 in the amount of \$7,160. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Tarantino abstaining. **Motion carries.**

#151 – Legal Services –

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider account #151. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #151 in the amount of \$100. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#161 – Town Clerk – The vote on Tuesday kept the Town Clerk's position elected. Mr. Yunits said that a full-time work week is 35 hours (because a one-hour lunch is taken each of the 5 days).

Mr. Tarantino asked if there was a law against the town entering in to a services agreement with the town clerk. Mr. Yunits said no, this was not a possibility.

Mr. Camp expressed concern about the proposed 30% raise for the town clerk's position and the impact it would have over other future contract negotiations.

Mr. Helmreich said that he is looking at this not as a pay increase, but instead as making it the equivalent of a full-time position.

Mr. Carignan pointed out that even if it was decided to recommend the additional funding this year, it doesn't mean that every year it has to be funded. Mr. Camp questioned the possible legal problems that this could bring. Mr. Tim Giblin, Selectman, expressed the same concerns. He also mentioned that if it was funded and the present town clerk left, the position could possibly be filled by someone that could take advantage of the situation by not working as many hours, or any at all, (because there isn't a contractual amount of hours that the town clerk has to work) but still would be entitled to that pay.

Motion was made by Mr. Camp to reconsider account #161. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: In favor - Mr. Camp; Opposed – Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Tarantino, Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Carignan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Graf, Mr. Rotondi; Abstained – Mr. Thomas. **Motion FAILS.**

#210 – Police Department –

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to reconsider account #210-510. Seconded by Mr. Camp. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend account #210-510 in the amount of \$2,236,401. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#220 – Fire Department –

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to reconsider account #220-510. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to recommend account #220-510 in the amount of \$2,602,334. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#290 – Communications –

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to reconsider account #290-510. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Graf to recommend account #290-510 in the amount of \$457,058, which is a reflection of an increase of \$12,378 over a previous vote. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Mr. Thomas asked why so much overtime is needed when 3 positions are being added with this budget.

Ms. Charlene Fisk, Communications Director, explained that it is because the 3 people being added will be training in the academy and will also need to be transitioned in by experienced personnel.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to amend the original Motion to the amount of \$469,680, which gives an additional \$25K (as opposed to \$12,378) with the purpose of getting the department through the first 6 months to then see where they're at and what they might need/not need. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote on the amendment: In favor – 6 members; Opposed – Mr. Helmreich, Mr. Evans, Mr. Camp, and Mr. Graf. **Motion carries.**

Vote on the amended motion: In favor – 7 members; Opposed – Mr. Evans, Mr. Camp, and Mr. Graf. **Motion carries.**

#420 – Highway Department –

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to reconsider account #420-510. Seconded by Mr. Evans. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Rotondi to recommend account #420-510 in the amount of \$543,614. Seconded by Mr. Evans. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#610 – Library –

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to reconsider account #610. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 9 members in favor, with Mr. Camp opposed. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend account #610 in the amount of \$337,175. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: 7 members in favor, with Mr. Camp, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Flaherty opposed. **Motion carries.**

It was noted at this point, after these votes, that \$87,716 of the \$162K Veteran's funds, has been used which leaves \$74,284 remaining.

#300 – School Department –

Mr. Helmreich noted that there is an additional \$267,084 (\$228 for Special Education and \$39K for supplies) that was requested by the School Department that is left unfunded. He said that if the remaining \$74,284 was given to the schools then that would reduce them to a \$192,800 deficit. He also noted that the School Department has been underfunded for many years.

Mr. Kimball, Selectman, pointed out that the School Department, unlike other town departments, has the ability to move funds around as needed.

Mr. Rotondi asked for further explanation on how the \$1.1M in grants can be used.

Mr. Carignan asked where the money in the Revolving Funds is used.

Both Mr. Camp and Mr. Thomas said that they would like to see the remaining \$74+ go into the Stabilization Account or Capital Improvements Account.

Mr. Helmreich said that he would invite Dr. Ansay to the next FinCom meeting to speak to the committee's many questions and the FinCom could then discuss further what they would like to do with the remaining funds.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced: Budget sheets for the following accounts: #541, 151, 161, 210, 220, 290, 420, 610, 300.
School Grants worksheet

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Paul Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary