

**Finance Committee Meeting
October 1, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

Present: Chair, Lee Tarantino; Vice-Chair, Michael Flaherty; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Richard Dorney; Stephen Evans; Paul Helmreich; William Rotondi.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Robert Camp; Michael Thomas.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the September 10, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Conservation Commission

Ms. Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent, addressed the Finance Committee regarding 3 articles on the town meeting warrant, as follows:

- **Article 10 – Erikson Land Acquisition**

Ms. Carlino provided the FinCom with a map outlining the Erikson Land on Bay Road that is being proposed. She explained that the land is 21+ acres, is a box turtle habitat, and would serve as a wildlife corridor (it would connect other parcels of land that are presently owned by the town that are not developed).

Ms. Carlino told the FinCom that the cost of the land acquisition – which is \$225K - would be 100% reimbursed through taking advantage of the MA Conservation Tax Credit and by a financial contribution from Bay Heights LLC.

Ms. Carlino said that the grant application is taken more seriously and looked upon more favorably if the town can show large areas of land are being linked.

Mr. Tarantino expressed that he was concerned that there has not been any letter of agreement/intent signed by the Erikson family. He said that this is not a reflection on the Erikson family but that he is thinking of how other land acquisitions, without such letter, have gone and he would like to avoid that.

Ms. Carlino said that she would get that from the Erikson family.

- **Article 11 – Land Transfer (Bay Road)**

Mr. Yunits said that the Board of Selectmen has not voted on this article yet.

Mr. Helmreich said that he would like to hear from the Selectmen and know how they vote before making his own vote.

Ms. Carlino said that someone has already volunteered to do the upkeep to the trails for the Bay Road property as part of the New Land Stewardship Program. She also mentioned that nothing motorized would be allowed on the property, that it would be for walking, hunting, etc.

- **Article 7 – Capital Request, Dam Repair Phase B**

Ms. Carlino explained that the dam is currently non-compliant and that the town is under mandate to get these repairs taken care of. The estimate for this phase of the repair is \$92K. Included in this phase is testing, design, and bidding out of the project. Ms. Carlino stated that this phase takes the project right up to the construction phase.

Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Yunits addressed the Finance Committee regarding articles from the Town Meeting warrant, as follows:

- **Article 1 – Unpaid Bills**

Mr. Yunits stated that there is a bill for \$2000.54 for boiler equipment, \$70 for ABC Disposal, and \$394.35 + \$538.18 for the Inspection Department vehicle repairs and maintenance, a total of \$3003.07.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$3003.07. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

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

- **Article 8 – Separation Expenses**

Mr. Yunits explained that these expenses are because of a retirement in the Assessor's office. The amount is \$21,377 for 90 days of sick leave buy-back and the rest vacation time.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 8 in the amount of \$21,377 to be raised and appropriated. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

- **Article 9 – Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust (OPEB)**

Mr. Yunits explained that this report is needed for Standard and Poors.

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to recommend Article 9 in the amount of \$40K. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: 8 members in favor, with Mr. Helmreich abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Helmreich explained that he abstained because he is hesitant about the funding.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

- Minutes of September 10, 2012
- Map of Erikson property
- Town meeting score sheet
- Draft of Town Meeting warrant
- Schedule of Unpaid bills
- GASB 45 Summary of Results
- Capital Request – Reservoir Dam Project

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary