

Finance Committee Meeting
November 29, 2012
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room
(Joint Meeting with The Board of Selectmen)

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

Absent: Robert Camp.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not viewed at this time.

II. New Business

A. Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts

Mr. Yunits explained that as he and the Selectmen were getting ready to set the tax rate, they realized they hadn't collected the \$154K that is owed by the Campanelli company from last fiscal year. He also said that the Water/Sewer Department would like to use Free Cash to solve this deficit and that he does not agree with doing so. Water/Sewer Commission members, Steve Wiseman, Diane McElligott, and Luther Grant were present, as well as Duane Knapp, Water/Sewer Superintendent.

Mr. Wiseman explained that the state will not acknowledge the budget because of this outstanding bill from Campanelli, and that he is concerned that this year's bill won't be paid either.

He said that the Water/Sewer Department will deny Campanelli sewer service on their West Main Street 40B project if they don't pay the outstanding bill. He also stated that a tax lien would be placed on the property on December 1.

Mr. Kimball said that this bill is actually a year behind, and that Campanelli owes \$154K for 2011 and another \$154K for 2012.

Mr. Wiseman also said that the commission does not have anything in writing saying that they are refusing to pay, they just haven't. However, he said that they have requested that the town buy some of their excess capacity to offset this bill.

Mr. Wiseman said that the impact of the lack of \$154K would be layoffs in the department.

The Campanelli representatives have been invited to a Water/Sewer Commission meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr. Kimball suggested that the commissioners go to the Massachusetts Housing Authority and say that the town refuses to give the Campanelli project additional flow until this is resolved. He said that the Board of Selectmen would also send a letter to Mass Housing.

A discussion was had on trying to find the original contract with Campanelli. Mr. Yunits said that Campanelli is relying on this old contract that was in place when they bought land from bank. Town counsel said there needs to be a time limit, but there is no time limit in the contract, so the contract is not valid.

Mr. Wiseman said that if this matter does not get resolved then it will not be included in the W/S budget next year.

Vote: The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to use Free Cash, if necessary, to reduce the Budget Surplus.

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to recommend that should it become necessary for the Town of Norton to address a revenue deficit in the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2013:

1. The Finance Committee will recommend to voters at a Special Town Meeting that the Town vote to (i) authorize the use of Free Cash, (ii) reduce the Other Charges and Expenses, and/or (iii) reduce the Budget Surplus to cure such shortfall; and
2. The Finance Committee will take such other or further action as may be deemed necessary or appropriate.

Seconded by Mr. Carignan. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

B. Superintendent Search Committee Appointment

Mr. Carignan volunteered to be the Finance Committee's representative member of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to appoint Mr. Carignan as the Finance Committee's representative for the committee. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

III. Old Business

Next Meeting

Future meetings were not scheduled at this time.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Mr. Carignan. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced: Motion signature sheet

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary