

**Finance Committee Meeting
February 20, 2013
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room**

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

Absent: Robert Camp; Jackie Desrochers.

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 November 1, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Evans and Mr. Rotondi abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the November 29, 2012 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Mr. Tarantino thanked Mr. Carignan for his service on the Superintendent Search Committee.

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the Board of Selectmen will likely open the Special town Meeting warrant at tomorrow night’s (2/21/13) meeting.

Cherry Sheet

Mr. Yunits reviewed the Cherry Sheet (Local Aid Estimates) and noted that the Veteran’s Benefits of \$163,470 is included. He also noted that the Annual Formula Local Aid is possibly up to \$82,918. He said that this number is contingent upon the Governor’s new revenue enhancers. Mr. Yunits pointed out that the Charter School assessment is down from last year.

Local Receipts Snapshot

Mr. Yunits noted that there is a slight decrease in the anticipated Local Receipts.

Fixed and Shared Expenses

Mr. Yunits said that because of a couple of injuries there will be an increase in Worker’s Compensation. A discussion was had on health benefits and whether it’s still worth it to be part of the consortium. Mr. Yunits said that it is.

Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues - The total tax to be raised and appropriated for FY14 is \$30,550,584. Mr. Yunits noted that there will not be any Overlay Surplus this year. He also noted that local receipts are lower and that ambulance charges have increased so that there will be a \$50K increase for FY14.

The estimated total Operating Revenue is \$50,095,530.

Expenditures – Mr. Yunits pointed out that the assessment for SE Regional School is up \$59K from last year. Based on the budgets being requested from departments, the General Government expenses would be \$9,930,467 and for Schools \$24,567,621 (which is an increase of \$1.5M), but does not include the \$82,918 from the Cherry Sheet above.

Based on these numbers, there is a \$260,946 shortfall. Mr. Yunits said that he would be meeting with the School Department to look where cuts could be made.

Snow and Ice Removal

Mr. Yunits said that the storms of this winter have been tough on the budget, particularly because the storms have been on the weekends, which means employees are receiving overtime pay. He said that the blizzard alone cost the town \$69K. He said that \$80K was budgeted and what has been spent is already over \$154K. Mr. Yunits said that the truck that was involved in the accident has been totaled. He said that it was a 1992 vehicle and that the Highway Department will be looking to replace it.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to approve deficit spending for snow and ice removal. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Draft Demolition Delay By-Law (Norton Historical Commission)

Mr. Yunits said that the Historical Commission will be revising this article and using suggestions from other towns' similar by-laws.

Note From Police Chief

Mr. Tarantino shared a note from Chief Clark regarding staffing levels in regards to injuries and a retirement. He also noted that the chief has invited all committee members for a ride-a-long with an officer.

III. Old Business

Campanelli Tax

Mr. Helmreich asked Mr. Yunits for an update on the Campanelli tax issue. Mr. Yunits said that the bill has yet to be paid, but that they are having frequent meetings to resolve it. He also said that enough funds have been received from others that there will not be a need for Free Cash to cover it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 25, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:10pm. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion carries.

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of November 1, 2013
Minutes of November 29, 2013
Town Meeting and Budget Schedule Guidelines
Preliminary list of Warrant Articles
Cherry Sheet
Local Receipts
Fixed and Shared Expenses
FY14 Est. Revenues and Expenditures
Deficit Spending Authorization sheet

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary