

Finance Committee Meeting
April 29, 2013
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; Paul Helmreich; 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

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the April 8, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: 6 in favor, with Ms. Desrochers, Mr. Dorney, and Mr. Carignan abstaining.
Motion carries.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve the April 24, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: 6 in favor, with Ms. Desrochers, Mr. Rotondi, and Mr. Carignan abstaining.
Motion carries.

II. New Business

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Mr. Yunits explained the articles as follows:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills – There are 4 unpaid bills - \$64.40 for the Sun Chronicle, \$5K for Zurick Insurance, \$637.50 for Scottsdale Insurance, and \$287.50 for Cooke and Company Insurance.
A total of \$5989.40 would come from Free Cash.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$5989.40 to be paid from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining – Will have the amount for this at a later meeting

Article 3 – Budget Supplements – Will have more information for this article at Wednesday’s meeting.

Articles 4 and 5 – Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds – Mr. Yunits said that these articles will likely not need a vote.

Article 6 – High School Construction Project – Mr. Yunits explained that \$600K was approved for borrowing for the Feasibility Study for the High School renovation project. The study only took about \$507K, so \$93K was unused. This article is asking to use that \$93K for unforeseen needs in the construction project.
Mr. Yunits explained that this \$93K is no longer available and cannot be used for these unforeseen needs.
Mr. Helmreich, who is also part of the High School Building Committee, explained that the project needs about \$50K for an anti-moisture treatment. He said that this step in the construction process would not be able to wait until the October Town Meeting for funding.
Mr. Yunits said that, according to bond counsel, even if this article passed at town meeting the town would not be able to get the funds.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend “no action”. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: 6 members in favor, and Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Helmreich opposed. **Motion carries.**

Article 7 – Overlay Fund – Verizon was taxed too much by the town and this is a settlement with them for \$53K. This would be paid out of the Overlay Surplus Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$53K from the Overlay Surplus Fund. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 8 – PILOT for DG Clean Power, LLC – This is a Solar Renewable Energy Generation Facility. This article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 30-year PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) agreement. Mr. Yunits said that the capacity of this project is 1 or 2 megawatts, at \$15K per megawatt.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 8. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 9 – Renewable Energy – This article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a power purchase agreement so that the town could benefit from solar energy.

Mr. Dorney said that the sooner the town could become part of this program, the better. He said that this program may expire soon because the state has a cap of 400 megawatts.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 9. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 10 – Capital Improvements – No action would be needed as this would be addressed in the Annual Town Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend “no action” for Article 10. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 11 – FY13 Capital Improvements Supplement – Mr. Yunits explained that this article would authorize the spending of \$146K to replace the plow truck that was in an accident this past winter.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend the use \$146K of the Capital Improvement funds to pay for the replacement of the truck. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 12 – Daggatt-Crandall-Newcomb Home, Inc. Parcel – Will wait to discuss until further appraisal is completed.

Article 13 – Mandatory Sewer Connection –

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 13. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: 8 members in favor, with Mr. Carignan opposed. **Motion carries.**

Article 14 and Article 15 – 40B Housing Articles – Mr. Yunits explained that the Board of Selectmen would like to see these articles pass. Article 14 would be a home-rule petition for Norton and Article 15 would be for the Selectmen to submit legislation to the state.

It was explained that presently the town is required to allow at least 10% of all housing in town to be affordable housing. A 40B project is not included in the 10% until it is built. Therefore there are projects that have been approved but not built and the concern is that if all were to build then the town would have well over 10% of housing as 40B.

Mr. Helmreich said that he supports the articles and that he doesn't feel that the purpose of them is to prevent affordable housing but instead to prevent proposed 40B projects from piling up.

Mr. Thomas said that he is a strong supporter of affordable housing and that he is opposed to both articles.

He feels that the articles do limit affordable housing because so many of the projects never end up being built. Mr. Tarantino agreed with Mr. Thomas and said that he felt that the articles put a limit on affordable housing.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 14. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Mr. Flaherty in favor; 7 members opposed; Mr. Dorney abstained. **Motion FAILS.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 15. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Helmreich, and Mr. Carignan in favor; Mr. Tarantino, Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rotondi, and Ms. Desrochers opposed; Mr. Dorney abstained. **Motion FAILS.**

III. Old Business

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article 4 – TIF – South Shore Millwork –

Mr. Yunits informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen recently recommended this article as written for the \$181K for the new construction only. Mr. DeLuca asked if it is unusual to give multiple TIFs to a company. Mr. Yunits said that it is allowable.

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 4 as written. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: 7 members in favor, with Ms. Desrochers and Mr. Rotondi abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Article 5 – MFN Regional Wastewater District –

Mr. Yunits said that the language of the agreement is still being ironed out and that the hope is that it will be ready for Town Meeting.

Article 6 – Water Treatment Plant –

Mr. Yunits informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen have voted “no action” for this article but that the W/S Board has yet to pull it from the warrant.

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend “no action” on Article 6. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Article 20 – New By-Law: Second Hand Articles –

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to reconsider Article 20. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 20 as written in the April 24, 2013 draft of the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Ms. Desrochers abstaining. **Motion carries.**

Article 21 – Stabilization Fund –

Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend \$0 for Article 21. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of April 8, 2013
Minutes of April 24, 2013
Annual Town Meeting Warrant draft
Special town Meeting Warrant draft

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Date Approved

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary