

Finance Committee Meeting
May 13, 2013
6:00 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room
Prior to Town Meeting
(Meeting in conjunction with the Capital Improvements Committee)

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

Absent: 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 May 6, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Rotondi abstaining. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

Reserve Fund Transfer:

- Town Clerk - for the costs of an unscheduled election.

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to transfer \$9,063.77 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to Town Clerk and Elections, to cover the costs of an unscheduled election. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Bill Gouveia, town moderator, thanked the members of the Finance Committee for their hard work throughout the past year. He also informed the members of the FinCom that the vacancy on the committee has been filled by Mr. Michael Fiore, a former FinCom member.

III. Old Business

Annual Town Meeting Articles:

- *Article 12 – Capital Improvements Appropriation –*

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to reconsider Article 12 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 12 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$300K. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

- *Article 13 – Capital Improvements Plan –*

Ms. McElligot, of the Water/Sewer Commission, explained that the change would be to remove from the prepared motion "and \$30,873.00 to be raised from sewer rates". The new total for the article would be \$1,067,218.74.

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to reconsider Article 13 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to recommend Article 13 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$1,067,218.74. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

- *Article 14 – FY14 Operating Budget –*

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to reconsider Article 14 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 14 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for the total amount of \$46,638,439. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Mr. Bob Kimball, of the Selectboard, asked that the FinCom consider adding \$15,817 to the Council on Aging-Personal Services (#541-510). He said that the Board of Selectmen took a position to add these funds to the CoA budget. He went on to say that the reasoning was that, with the Veterans regionalization breaking up the secretary would be out of a

job and the Board of Selectmen would like to see her work at the CoA. The amount proposed is her salary. She is already in the union and this would be a lateral move.

Mr. Helmreich pointed out that the total amount in the Veterans budget has not been reduced by \$15K.

Mr. DeLuca asked if the Council on Aging wants a secretary, if they've been consulted. Mr. Kimball said that they have not. Mr. DeLuca insisted that a secretary is not needed by the CoA and said his major concern is the lack of consultation of the Council on Aging.

Mr. Helmreich said that he would like to wait until the fall to discuss further. He felt that this idea is last-minute and needs further discussion and thought.

Mr. Kimball explained that, in doing this, the Board of Selectmen are trying to salvage a qualified person, and explained that as of July 1st this employee would be laid off and would start collecting unemployment.

Mr. Rotondi suggested funding the position through October and re-visiting it then.

A straw vote was taken on moving \$15K from the Veterans account to the Council on Aging account:

Yes – Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Thomas

No – 6 members

Abstention – Mr. Rotondi

It was decided to use existing funds (\$3,800 in the Veterans account) to fund this position until October.

Special Town Meeting Articles:

- *Article 12 – Daggett-Crandall First Refusal –*

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to reconsider Article 12 on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to recommend Article 12 on the Special Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$338K. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

- *Article 13 – Mandatory Sewer Connection By-Law Amendment –*

Ms. McElligot requested that the FinCom reconsider their recommendation. She said that the W/S commission has the option to consider any issues on a case-by-case basis. She also said that her concern is that the cost to the current small base of sewer users will go up due to the costs of the treatment plant, so there is a need to add more users to spread the cost out.

Mr. Tarantino said that he would possibly reconsider in the fall, but with some changes made to the article.

Next Meeting

Future meetings were not scheduled at this time.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of May 6, 2013
Motions for the Annual Town Meeting
Motions for the Special Town Meeting
Reserve Fund Transfer – Town Clerk

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Date Approved

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary