

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**September 29, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

**Absent:** Jackie Desrochers, Paul Helmreich, Michael Thomas.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to approve the September 22, 2014 Finance Committee minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Rotondi and Mr. Tarantino abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

**Signer of Bills/Payroll –**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Tarantino to allow Mr. Carignan and Mr. Evans, and in their absence Mr. Yunits, to sign bills and payroll. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Free Cash –**

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the Free Cash amount is \$2,112,544 and he outlined where it all came from and stated that the primary factors included \$973,657 from Unused Budget Turn Backs, and \$1,056,000 from Local Receipts Surplus. He noted that \$600K of this is due to Motor Vehicle Excise coming in higher than thought and that that may change. Mr. Yunits broke down the Unused Budget Turn Backs, including Debt Repayment, Insurances, Public Safety Departments, and more. He stated that \$73,612.13 is from Education, \$319,023.85 is from General Government, and \$581,021.43 is from Fixed and Shared.

Mr. Yunits also outlined the Free Cash Strategy. He said that \$200K would be used for Snow and Ice, \$210K+ for FY15 budget supplements, \$103K+ for retirement expense, \$622K for FY15 Capital appropriation, \$600K for FY16 budget, and more. He noted that \$294,683.15 would be the balance that would be reserved for the Spring Town Meeting.

**Town Meeting Warrant Articles:**

**Article 1 – Unpaid Bills**

Mr. Yunits informed the committee that the Wheaton bill has already been paid, so it has been removed. The new total for the article is \$1,802.47.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$1,802.47, coming from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Article 3 – Separation Expenses**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend Article 3 in the amount of \$54,143.38, coming from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Article 7 – Capital Improvements Funding**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$622K, coming from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**Article 8 – Capital Plan**

Mr. Yunits informed the committee that there is \$321,150 in total recommendations but that the current total in the Capital Plan is only \$299,381. He explained that Article 7 would put \$622K in the Capital Plan to cover this article and leave \$600K in the account.

Mr. Yunits detailed the Capital Budget Amendment as follows:

*Schools Tech Update* – 200 laptops for \$164K. These would be purchased for teachers, administration, and specialists. There would also be 8 extras. Also there would be a purchase of carts for \$40K.

*Police* – A cruiser for \$34K and an upgrade/update of 17 tasers.

*Fire Dept* – Ladder truck refurbish for \$20K.

*Highway Dept* – Hook and Lift truck conversion for \$40K.

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to recommend Article 8 in the amount of \$321,150, coming from the Capital Improvements fund. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 12 – OPEB Contribution**

Mr. Yunits said that the current balance in the account is \$51,203.89. He said that the town needs to show that it is making an effort to build the account.

Mr. Yunits said that he would find out from the Treasurer what this money is invested in and let the FinCom members know. He also said that he predicts that towns will be required to pay in a certain percentage in the future.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Tarantino to recommend Article 12 (OPEB) in the amount of \$60K, coming from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

#### **Article 13 – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan**

Mr. Yunits explained that this plan needs to be in effect in order for the town to have the opportunity to receive grants in the case of disaster. If the town experienced a disaster and didn't have this plan in place then it would be likely that the town would not be eligible for financial help.

The plan would look at critical areas in town (dams, drainage systems, etc.) and what is being done for maintenance.

Mr. Yunits said that while many departments are involved (Conservation, Board of Health, Planning Board), it is the Fire Chief who is ultimately responsible.

Mr. Tarantino said that he would like to table the discussion until the next meeting so that FinCom members can read all the information on the subject.

#### **Article 23 – Municipal Aggregation of Electricity**

This article would allow the town to enter into a buying group with other towns to get the lowest price for electricity. He explained that each resident would still have the option to opt out of the group. He said that the bill would be the same with the exception of one line on the bill that says who the supplier is. Mr. Yunits said that if a resident's power goes out he/she would still call National Grid.

Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the Select Board have already voted to accept this.

Mr. Dorney expressed his support of this and noted that Good Energy has a good track record.

Mr. Tarantino said that he would like to table this discussion until after Mr. Yunits returns from the energy conference that he is attending tomorrow and reports any additional information.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

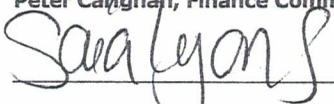
**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

#### **Documents Referenced:**

Minutes of September 22, 2014  
Town Meeting Warrant Article score sheet  
Free Cash worksheets  
Capital Plan Budget worksheets  
Good Energy information sheets

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Peter Cargnan, Finance Committee Chair

  
Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary

  
Date Approved