

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**March 6, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room**

**Present:** Chair, Michael Fiore; Vice-Chair, Richard Dorney; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Stephen Evans; Walter Eykel; Paul Helmreich; William Rotondi; Amy Sawyer.

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

**Absent:** Michael Flaherty.

**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. Paul Helmreich to approve the March 1, 2017 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Evans abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

Mr. Fiore informed the committee of the passing of Mr. Lee Tarantino, fellow Finance Committee member. He expressed his condolences to his family and spoke of what a valuable, selfless public servant Lee has been for the town of Norton.

Mr. Helmreich reiterated what Mr. Fiore said of Mr. Tarantino’s public service, noting that Mr. Tarantino became a good friend to him through their years of serving together on various town committees.

\*A moment of silence was observed in honor of Mr. Tarantino.

**Updates from Mr. Yunits –**

**Town Audit** – Mr. Yunits stated that the auditors were in a few weeks ago and said that the town’s reserve funds of 8-10% are where they should be and that tax collections are excellent at 98%. He noted that the town’s Free Cash is made up of unexpended and unencumbered funds.

Mr. Yunits stated that the goals for the future are to have financial policies in place, and to continue funding the OPEB fund as well as the Bristol County Retirement System.

**Snow and Ice Removal** – Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that \$127K has been spent thus far, which is \$47K over the budgeted amount. He said that once the salt invoices are paid there will be a total deficit of \$76,643.

**Solar Landfill** – Mr. Yunits informed the FinCom that the town has received its first check for \$80K for the solar project and that the town should soon see savings on the electric bills for the town and school buildings at 7 cents per kilowatt.

**Override Possibility** – Mr. Yunits discussed the possibility of having an override vote on the April 25<sup>th</sup> ballot and then, for the second necessary vote, at the May 8<sup>th</sup> town meeting. He said that there is a joint meeting this Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, here it will be discussed and possibly voted on.

Revenues and Expenditures Sheet – Mr. Yunits, referring to a handout of the FY18 Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures, stated that the amount available for appropriation is \$39,159,265.

**Mr. Yunits presented the FY18 Budget Requests as follows:**

#135 – Accounting – The increase in Personnel Services is due to stipends and the 2% cost-of-living increase and there is a slight increase in Charges and Expenditures due to an increase in the Audit and Office Supplies lines.

#175 – Planning – Ms. Tabitha Harkin, Town Planner, presented a level-services budget noting the reduction in the Salaries line due to her own salary being lower than her predecessor's (because she was newly hired).

#177 – Zoning Board of Appeals – This budget is level-funded at \$300.

#122 – Selectmen – Mr. Yunits explained that there is a slight increase for Salaries as well as a slight increase for Office Supplies.

#123 – Town Manager – Mr. Yunits explained that there is a slight increase for Salaries as well as a \$2K increase in Charges and Expenditures for Mileage, which is contractual.

#131 – Finance Committee – This budget is level-service at \$1,310.

#151 – Legal Services – This budget is level-service at \$70K.

**III. Old Business**

Electric Cars - Mr. Yunits updated the FinCom on the Town Meeting appropriation of \$15K for the 3 electric cars and 6 charging stations. He said it is all working well so far and that he plans to get signage to inform the townspeople to where the charging stations are located. Mr. Carignan inquired about what this project would cost to the town in electricity bills. Mr. Yunits said that he would research this and get back to the FinCom.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 7:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rotondi. Vote: Unanimous.  
**Motion carries.**

**Documents Referenced:** Minutes of March 1, 2017  
Proposed budgets for departments #135, #175, #177, #122, #123, #131, #151  
FY18 Estimated Revenues and Expenditures worksheet

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Michael Fiore, Finance Committee Chair

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Date Approved

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Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary