

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**March 15, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room**

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

Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

**Absent:** Stephen Evans; Paul Helmreich.

**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. Dorney to approve the March 6, 2017 Finance Committee minutes as written.

Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: All in favor, with Mr. Coakley and Mr. Flaherty abstaining. **Motion carries.**

**II. New Business**

Mr. Fiore welcomed Ms. Amy Sawyer and Mr. Joe Coakley, two new members to the Finance Committee, and thanked them for joining the committee.

**FY18 Proposed Budget Review:**

#161 – Town Clerk – Ms. Lucia Longhurst, Town Clerk, presented this budget to the FinCom noting that she is requesting a full-time assistant as the workload in the office is increasing.

#162 – Elections – This budget includes a \$2/hour raise for poll workers to bring them up to \$10/hour.

#300 – School Department – Dr. Baeta, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the FinCom stating that the total budget request for FY18 is \$28,186,662 noting that it is an increase of 7.94% (more than \$2M) over last year.

He noted that Special Education costs are anticipated to go down. He explained that special educational preschool is mandatory by law. He said that the other students in these classrooms pay tuition to take part in the class.

Dr. Baeta went on to list some of the changes and additions included in this proposed budget, one of which is free Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) for all students. He explained that \$175K of School Choice funds would be used to offset the cost of this first year of FDK.

A discussion was had on the effect on FDK if an override didn’t pass.

Mr. Dorney asked whether the positive things that would be implemented because of an override (FDK, no transportation costs, low sports fees, etc.) would be continued in the years to follow. Dr. Baeta said he couldn’t promise anything because after a general override is passed, the following year the funds go back into the general fund to be distributed as the town votes. However, he said that he feels confident that Full-Day Kindergarten would stay in place.

Dr. Baeta stated that it is important that the School Department is looking at what other schools (vocational, agricultural, college prep) are offering that Norton Public Schools are not and explore the possibility of including some of these programs in the curriculum to stay competitive.

Mr. Flaherty asked if Full-Day Kindergarten would still be part of the budget if the override failed. Dr. Baeta said that it would not, however if the town included the \$70K in the School budget that the town manager cut from their request then they would be able to make it work.

Mr. Fiore asked what the number of students was that leave the district and then return. Dr. Baeta said that he would get that information for the FinCom.

Dr. Baeta noted that the Foxboro Regional Charter School is opening up 400 new seats in their school for this fall.

#241 – Inspections – Mr. Yunits noted that there is a net increase of \$240 for this year.

#292 – Animal Control/Dog Officer – Mr. Yunits noted that there is an increase in the salary line because it includes funding for overtime as well as a part-time person who would cover vacations.

FY18 Budget Presentation –

Mr. Yunits reviewed his Town Manager's Budget Message with the FinCom, referring to his handout outlining State Aid, Local Revenue, and the Budget. He noted an anticipated net increase of \$113,133 in State Aid. Mr. Yunits also stated that he anticipates \$395K in New Growth. The 2.5% increment for FY18 will be \$824,485 and Local Receipts are estimated to increase \$265K.

Mr. Yunits noted that the proposed budget for the School Department is \$27,105,655 which is \$70,421 below what the School Dept. has requested. He noted that it does not include full-day kindergarten. Mr. Yunits said that the proposed Town budget is \$11,955,769 which includes funding the Library at \$399,111 (which is more than the Minimum Funding Requirement). Mr. Yunits's report pointed out that the budget needed to be reduced by \$130,532 in level-service requests, including Police Overtime, Fire Overtime, Fire Salary and Wages, and Ambulance Expense.

Mr. Yunits noted that the FinCom will need to take a vote on both the level-services budget as well as the override budget. This will need to be done because the override vote (April 25<sup>th</sup>) will be so close to town meeting (May 8<sup>th</sup>).

**III. Old Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Documents Referenced:**

Minutes of March 6, 2017  
Budget proposals for accts #161, 162, 300, 241, 292  
FY18 School Department budget request supplemental worksheets  
Town Manager's Budget Proposal handout

Respectfully Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Fiore, Finance Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary