



RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2017 OCT 17 A 9:45

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes October 2, 2017

I. 7:00 P.M. Call to Order

The October 2, 2017, meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Board of Selectman's Meeting Room and was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mr. Dorney, Chairman. Members Present: Mr. Aaron Smith, Ms. Aimee Sawyer, Mr. Stephen Evans Mr. Paul Helmreich, Mr. Richard Dorney, Mr. William Rotondi, Ms. Bonnie Yezukevich and Mr. Tom DeLuca. Also in attendance was Mr. Mike Yunits, Town Manager. Not in attendance: Mr. Peter Carignan and Mr. Walter Eykel.

II. Warrant Article Discussion

a. Conservation Business

- i. Mike Yunits came before the Board and introduced Ms. Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent. Ms. Carlino distributed materials regarding Camp Edith Read and the definitions of passive and active outdoor recreation. She described Camp Edith as a 46-acre land equipped with upland, camp with grounds, bathrooms, full kitchen, tent platforms and river access. This land has potential for an ADA compliant trail system, canoe/kayak launch area on the Wading river, camping, fishing, boating, among other things. The map included in the materials shows the overall land, including conservation restriction and the wetland and flood plain on the property. This land will fall under passive recreation. Ms. Carlino outlined the Land grant information. The total amount of the property would cost \$481,550.00. With a grant requested of 64%, the cost to the Town would be \$173,192.00. Mr. Dorney inquired when the Conservation Committee will know if the grant has been approved to which Ms. Carlino responded October or November. This cost would be for the purchase of the property, it would not include additional costs for maintenance and upkeep. Mr. DeLuca asked about the yearly cost implications for maintenance and upkeep. Currently, the property has a locked gate at the entrance and one caretaker. Ms. Carlino will get further information on the costs for maintenance and upkeep of current structures and the pool, landscaping, security and demolition of the pool.

Mr. Evans asked about the opportunity for potential revenue. Mr. Carlino responded this property would have camping available and would rent tent sites, fees for users, amongst other things. The insurance costs would be included in the total of Town insurances. Ms. Sawyer asked if hunting would be allowed. Ms. Carlino stated yes, hunting would be allowed. This is an important activity to control the deer population, thus controlling deer ticks and Lyme disease. She also stated the land

would have the ability to develop about one to two house lots that would need to adhere to state laws. There were no further questions from the Board.

- ii. Mr. Yunits stated Chartley Pond is under phase II inspection and investigation because sink holes that had opened up and had to undergo repairs. This is currently categorized as “poor” condition with the state and is therefore, non-compliant. A study is required to be completed and reported to the state. This cost is \$35,930.

In regards to the upstream wall repairs for Chartley Pond, it is currently under the capital plan. The Town received a report from engineers with a stated cost of \$261,000. The notification regarding the grant will not be in for months.

- iii. The Walker Street culvert floods during major rain events. The Town is requesting an engineering design plan to be able to re-apply for a grant. The cost of the design is \$182,100. If the grant is denied again, Mr. Keith Silver has informed Mr. Yunits the cost to the Town would be about \$1 million.

b. School Department Business

- i. Dr. Joseph F. Baeta, Superintendent of Schools, came before the Board and described the School Department’s MSBA request and Capital plan. The School Department is requesting \$200,000 for the costs of conducting schematic design studies for a potential window and door replacement project at the Henri A. Yelle School. Dr. Baeta currently does not have the percentage of reimbursement yet. When asked the age of the windows, Dr. Baeta stated he will get the specifics of all windows in the school. Mr. Helmreich asked if the Town will know the amount of the grant to which Dr. Baeta stated MSBA does not guarantee a certain amount. There were no other questions from the Board.
- ii. Dr. Baeta is requesting \$329,956 to be added to the FY18 School Department Budget. This would include: \$28,193 for accounting software; \$200,000 for grades K-12 materials and supplies; and \$101,763 for curriculum needs across the district including Lucy Calking Units of Study, literacy materials, and science materials. A discussion ensued regarding staff positions and the effects on the budget, the declining numbers of enrollment and the current process of classes. Dr. Baeta agreed to include staffing changes to the end of school-year communication.

c. Non-Conforming Single and Two-Family Residential Structures

Mr. Yunits addressed the Board’s previous question regarding the percentage allowed of the original size or present size of a non-conforming structure. The Building Inspector stated the 25% is based off the original size of the structure. All modifications to residential structures are kept and filed. Anything above this will have to be addressed at the Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOTION was made by Mr. DeLuca to bring Article 26 under reconsideration. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to recommend Article 26, as written. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

d. Temporary Moratorium Marijuana Establishments

Mr. Yunits provided a handout detailing Section 4.9. This included the new verbiage that will replace the existing verbiage and will include recreational and medicinal use. Mr. Kimball came before the Board and stated the Board of Selectman are awaiting more information from the Licensing Authority. A moratorium gives the Town time to make better informed decisions. The Board of Selectman voted in favor.

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 27, as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: (8-0-1) MOTION CARRIES

e. Autumn Street Acceptance

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 21, as written. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: (8-0-1) MOTION CARRIES

f. Separation Expenses

MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to approve Article 2 in the amount of \$71,130 from free cash. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

Mr. Evans inquired about the pensionable elements. Mr. Yunits stated they include vacation time only. All contracts are different in regards to buy-back limits but some have caps of 180 days with a buy-back of up to 50% with a maximum amount of 90 days.

III. Other Business

The next meeting will be October 11, 2017.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to Adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Second by Ms. Sawyer Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kayleigh Correia
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee

on: October 11, 2017
(Date)

Signature: Richard Jorney