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**TOWN OF NORTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Remote Participation Meeting  
June 15, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The June 10, 2020 meeting of the Finance Committee was held via Remote participation and was called to order at 6:30 P.M., by Mr. William Rotondi, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Members Present: Mr. Peter Carignan, Mr. Aaron Smith, Mr. William Rotondi, Mr. Richard Dorney, Mr. Thomas DeLuca, Ms. Bonnie Yezukevich, Ms. Aimee Sawyer, Mr. Michael Fiore, Mr. Stephen Evans, Mr. Walter Eykel and Ms. Paula Daniels.

**II. New Business  
FY21 Budget**

Mr. Yunits put forth article 8, Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Ms. Sawyer made the motion to recommend the budget in the amount of \$60,818,873.00. Mr. Evans second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

**Public Hearing at 6:45 P.M.**

Mr. Rotondi stated that the concrete projections for the FY21 budget has been eliminated due to COVID-19. There has been a great effort to estimate the budget. Most departments have been level serviced and any increased are contractual in nature. Mr. Rotondi understands that this could get better or worse, depending on the response from the state.

Mr. Carignan made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:54 P.M. Mr. Dorney second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

**Review, Discuss, and/or vote Town Meeting Articles, including but not limited to:**

**All zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map Amendment Articles**

Mr. Rotondi asked Ms. Deley if the new zoning took away any properties. She replied that it took a small section of property at the corner of Reservoir and Route 140, but nothing that would see a major impact.



Mr. Evans asked if anyone else would identify the overlays other than the town. Ms. Deley stated that this is part of zoning. Mr. DiGuiseppe added to this answer stating that the hand drawn map was translated into a digital one and some mistakes were found. The new map is based on parcels and more accurate. Ms. Deley added that in terms of the overlay, not only it has to be part of the marijuana overlay district, it also has to be zoned properly.

Mr. Carignan asked if there is a more recent map. Ms. Deley stated that she will send an updated map to the committee.

Mr. Rotondi asked how many liquor establishments the town does have. Ms. Deley stated nine. As a conclusion the town is allowed two marijuana establishments. Ms. Deley stated that yes, it has to correspond to 20%.

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Mr. Dorney second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dorney asked if the by-law supersedes the state commission. Ms. Deley stated that the terms of the by-law govern.

Mr. Eykel asked if any oversight would be lost, in requiring a new permit. Ms. Deley stated that the board of selectmen would still perform the oversight through a subcommittee. Mr. Eykel asked what the interest has been. Ms. Deley stated that there has been 6-7 interested parties.

Mr. Eykel asked how confident we are with expectations on dispensaries in a community. Ms. Deley stated that there should be a community fee of 3% from dispensaries and there should be a voluntary donation to a town charity of their choosing. The application process help identify companies that would be a good fit for the town.

Mr. Yunits stated that this corresponds to article 16 and has been approved by the board of selectmen. Mr. Carignan made a motion to recommend article 16. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor with the exception of Mr. Evans, who dissented the motion.

Mr. Yunits moved on to article 17, the amendment to the map for the overlay districts. Mr. Fiore inquired what activities are allowed in these districts. Ms. Deley stated that in an industrial area, any marijuana establishment can be there. Mr. Carignan made the motion to recommend article 17. Ms. Sawyer second the motion.



No further discussion. All were in favor with the exception of Mr. Evans who dissented the motion.

Mr. DiGiuseppe presented the recommendation for article in regard to the Village Center Core District. He added that the language has not changed since March. Mr. Evans asked how places like CVS would change in terms of egress. Mr. DiGiuseppe stated that access points were discussed. He added that parking would be put to the side and the building would be placed closer to the street. He also added that DOT would have to confirm the access points, to make sure they were compliant with pedestrian access.

Ms. Daniels asked what type of businesses this zone would exclude. Mr. DiGiuseppe stated that auto repair shops, gas stations, anything that services vehicles would not be allowed. He stated that even though Cumberland Farms was not approved by the Planning Board, if they win the appeal, they would still establish themselves on that zone.

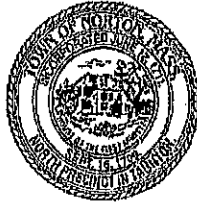
Mr. Fiore asked if the present gas stations and auto repair zones were to change hands, are they allowed to continue there or not. Mr. DiGiuseppe stated that if they don't use for those shops for that reason for two years, then they will have to leave. He added that there are no gas stations in the proposed district. Speedway is the closest one to the zone. There are two auto repair shops in the zone, but if they become inactive for two years, they would lose the rights to operate there.

Mr. Rotondi asked if a vehicle charging station would be allowed in the zone. Mr. DiGiuseppe did not have a clear answer, as the code does not have that category. If it's a 2-3 charge station, that would be allowed. Anything larger than that, no. Mr. DiGiuseppe stated that the new zoning plans should not restrict any current businesses from expanding.

Mr. Evans asked why we have to vote on this article and take it precedence over other articles. Mr. Yunits stated that the select board supported in favor of all articles, but they also supported with sending these back to the planning board for study. Mr. Carignan made the motion to recommend article 14. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Carignan made the motion to reopen article 16. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Carignan made the motion of refer article 16 back to Planning Board. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.



Mr. Carignan made a motion to reopen article 17. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Carignan made a motion to refer article 17 back to committee. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Carignan made a motion to refer article 14, 15 and 18 back to committee. Mr. DeLuca second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

#### **Prior Year Bills**

Mr. Yunits put forth article 13 for the Sun Chronicle prior year bill, \$605.30, and this would come out of the department's existing budget. Mr. DeLuca made a motion to approve article 13. Mr. Evans second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

#### **Retirement Expenses**

Mr. Yunits put forth article 3 for the retirement expense, \$185,735.00, to cover five retirements by backing vacation (2 in police, 2 in fire department and 1 in communications department). The funds would come out of free cash. Mr. Rotondi asked if these funds would be added to separation expenses. Mr. Yunits stated that it would. Mr. Evans stated that he didn't see the breakdown of these expenses (maximum number of sick time, vacation time). Mr. Yunits stated that per fire department, there should be two sick buy backs, in the police department it should be sick buy back and vacation and in communication is sick buy backs. Ms Sawyer asked how much is kept in the separation expenses account. Mr. Yunits stated that we could use some of it, be the auditors suggested to leave money in that account to build some funds. Mr. Corignan asked if these expenses are at current or older rate. Mr. Yunits stated that it should be for their current rate. Mr. Rotondi asked if they were a cap. Mr. Yunits stated that most contracts have caps. Mr. Smith asked what would happen if Finance Committee didn't approve this article. Mr. Yunits stated that it would cost the town lawyers' fees.

Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend article 3. Mr. Carignan second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

#### **Water Bodies Management Costs**

Mr. Yunits put forth article 12, to which he stated that there should be no action as there is plenty of funds in that account.



(Annual Payments to Norton), Sewer Betterments – or the cost of people that will have a better sewer connection (\$800/per year for 20 years).

Mr. Rotondi entertained a motion to approve Weston and Sampson to continue this project. Mr. Evans made the motion to recommend article 10 as written. Mr. Smith second the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor with the exception of Mr. Carignan and Mr. Rotondi who dissented this motion.

III. Old Business

IV. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

V. Review and Approval of Minutes

VI. Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

Mr. DeLuca made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 P.M. Ms. Sawyer second motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Sonia Tsilis, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

7/13/2020





Signature:

William Rotondi

William Rotondi, Finance Committee Chair

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