

Minutes of the Special TRI Board Meeting
Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Selectmen
Nov. 30, 2009 – SVAA Facility – 7 p.m.

Members present:

Board of Finance (BoF) - Justin Donnelly, Joseph Sangiovanni, Dennis Kreps, Sam Fuller, Brian Kost, Ryan Anderson, alts. Peter Boyd, Eric Harrington Absent: Jim Lennon
Director of Finance Deborah Cerrato, Town Treasurer Christine Davidson, Board Secretary, Bobbie C. Kling, also present.

Board of Education (BOE) – Jeanne Gee, Lauren. Life, Mary Ellen Tunsky, Susan Porcello, Mary Sanborn, Mary Roy, Michael Smith, Lori D'Ostuni Absent. Robert Eccles
Supt. Jack Reynolds, Director of Fiscal Administration, Ed Basile also present.

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) – Bernie Gooch represented the WPCA.

Board of Selectmen (BoS) – Tom Frenaye, Tim Reynolds, Eileen Moncrief, Joanne Sullivan
absent: Brian Fitzgerald

BoF Chairman Justin Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

He welcomed all board members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He introduced the BoF members, BoE members, BoS members, and Mr. Gooch. He introduced the other officials representing the Town and the School District.

Chairman Donnelly noted the following observations:

- * Gov. Rell has further reduced all Towns by 3% (State funding) Suffield's share, approximately \$350,000.
- * The Probate Court, due to reorganization, will most likely cost Suffield more.
- * The Assistant Assessor has informed the BoF Chairman, that the Grand List will not likely show any increases at all.
- * The school reimbursement continues to be negotiated; the total reimbursement not known at this time.
- * The casinos are in trouble; will they be able to pay the State, i.e. the Towns
- * Town is currently negotiating contracts
- * The fiscal outlook for the next town budget is negative.

Comments:

- * We should discuss budget guide lines. We have to work together.

- * Inflation is low perhaps we should seek a tax increase 1-2% increase.
- * In this current budget, capital expenditures were reduced substantially. Capital expenditures should be a priority.
- * We must try to keep down expenditures to a minimum; revenues are stagnant.
- * People understand a “zero increase in taxes.” Are we being realistic?
- * Debt service will be down \$600,000 net of revenue around \$400,000, but we will need that to make up for lost revenue.
- * What will happen to State revenues? We don’t believe we will not know by the time our proposed budget is submitted to the Town for a vote.
- * The fiscal prospect is grim and serious.
- * The Town needs to restrain health benefits and costs. Should the Town go out to bid?
- * We need to educate the residents; communication is essential. Fiscal restraint is our message? We need to show our fiscal restraints in this current budget, let the citizens know what steps the Town and the Schools have taken.
- * We need to consider the senior population; those who have retired and those who are planning to retire. How do we reach this group?
- * Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) is a serious concern; our contribution was cut this year from \$500,000 to \$250,000. The Town will need to fund OPEB by a much higher amount.
- * Can we save by sharing services with other Towns?
- * We need to attract more income, i.e. new businesses. We need a new income stream.
- * It is important and essential that all boards communicate with each other.
- * Should a bonding package be considered for necessary capital expenditures? Our debt service will be down. But we need to know just what to bond; we do not bond for recurring expenditures.

BoF Donnelly thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Board of Finance and the Chairman of the Board of Education will draft an article for the press noting this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, bf.MINUTES.TRI.BD.Spe.MTG.Nov.30.09