

Minutes of the Board of Finance Budget Review Meeting
March 17, 2008 – Police Station Conf. Room – 7 p.m.

Members present: Joseph Sangiovanni, Joanne Sullivan, Dennis Kreps, David Tagliavini, Sam Fuller, alts. James Lennon, Tom Frenaye Absent: J. Donnelly
Also present: First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter, Selectman Brian Fitzgerald, Treasurer Christine Davidson, Director of Finance Deborah Cerrato

Vice Chairman Joseph Sangiovanni called the meeting to order.

Correspondence: None

Citizen Comment: None

Vice Chairman stated that James Lennon would have voting rights for the absent Justin Donnelly. Mr. Kreps stated that the Board is not following procedure as specified by the CT General Statutes regarding the appointment of alternates and we should check into it. Mr. Sangiovanni stated that alternates would be assigned by party affiliation i.e. a Republican alternate would be accorded voting rights for an absent Republican member; and so forth. The Board of Finance has, in the past twenty years, accorded voting rights by the appointment by the Chairman, following party lines. Mr. Tagliavini moved to accord voting rights to James Lennon for the absent Justin Donnelly. Mr. Kreps seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Budget Review

Town Clerk – Elaine O'Brien was present. Her budget reflected a 2.7% increase, and her budget was not reduced by the Board of Selectmen (Selectmen). She reviewed her revenue; her projected total revenue of \$317,500 reflects a decrease of \$60,000. The Town could be further impacted if the rate for the conveyance tax changes. The Town could lose \$100,000.

Election – Registrars Darlene Burrell and Lynn Joyal were present. Their budget reflects a 68.24% increase which was not changed by the Selectmen. The increased expenses in part reflect the operation and equipment costs associated with the new voting scanners, ballots, and procedures. The State is requiring new mandates but do not fund the expense. The Registrars submitted a five page report, which detailed the duties, hours required, and references the specific section number of the State regulations. Mr. Lennon asked if the Registrars could provide a comparison of budget expenditures for the past five years. Other Board members would like a comparison with years with comparable elections.

Human Resources – William Crowley was present and noted that his budget reflects a 0% increase. He noted that he does provide full services to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and at no fee to WPCA. The Town and the WPCA will negotiate a new union contract next year.

Landfill - Supervisor Bob Heintz was present. His budget reflects a 1.73% increase which the Selectmen support. He noted that burns fees have increased to \$72 per ton. The Town is negotiating a new contract with the curbside trash pickup vendor. The new burn fees and any change to the trash pickup were not reflected and will need to be included in the budget. The burn fee was not known at the time of the budget submission. Recycling was discussed. More information about what items that now can now be picked up in the recycling bin needs to be made known to the residents. The public needs to be better informed. This will be addressed by the First Selectman's Office.

Tree Warden – Public Works Director Jack Muska addressed this budget. This budget has increased by 257%; it has been increased from \$7,000 to \$25,000 due to the need, and actual costs of "tree removal" now being attributed to this budget. The Selectmen support this budget. Even with the increase, Mr. Muska anticipates spending at least \$7,000 from the State Road Aid Funds in order to meet the needs of the Town.

Public Works – Public Works Director Jack Muska noted that the Selectmen reduced his requested budget to reflect 2.76% increase. He again noted the requested new position of secretary had not been supported by the Selectmen. This is the second time he has requested such a position. He reviewed the major increases in the proposed budget; additional hours for the Inmate Program, cost of janitorial supplies for all municipal buildings (previously received from the Board of Education), cost of heating oil (previously carried in maintenance budget), increased cost of Town's share of Milfoil Infestation expense, and noted the reduction in electrical cost (circulation pumps shut off for four months).

Highway Department – Foreman Mark Cervione was present, and Public Works Director Jack Muska noted the budget reflected a minus figure of -98%. The Selectmen did not support a third summer intern. The salt line item had been reduced from the requested \$150,000 by the Selectmen. Mr. Muska believes the Town will need at least \$20,000 in additional funds from the State Road Aid Fund to purchase the necessary amount of salt. The outside services line item has increased from \$29,000 to \$40,000 due to increased use of outside services for snowplowing around the lakes, mowing and contracted snow plowing, This was primarily used for the snowplowing of the lakes area. The loss of manpower due to sick leave, etc. was noted as the reason this has occurred.

Economic Development Commission – Howard Orr Jr, Chairman of the EDC and Patrick McMahon, EDC Director were present. The budget reflected 0% increase. In response to an inquiry, Mr. McMahon noted that he did work with the Town Planner, i.e. the Farmland Preservation program, and others. Funds in the marketing line item would be spent mostly on web sites enhancements and not print news.

Selectmen – First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter noted that this budget reflected a 3.25% increase. One major change is the new annual fee of \$7,650 for the Code Red Notification system, a multi-purpose notification service. This would not be restricted to emergencies like the one that is offered through the Capital Region Council of Governments- free of charge. The Town could decide on an annual basis if they wanted to continue with it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary, Bf.M.MARCH.17.08