

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk
March 8, 2010 at 1:58pm

*Special Board of Finance Meeting
8:00 a.m., Saturday, February 20, 2010
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall*

Minutes

Members present: Fran Korn, Loraine Coe, Rosemarie Naples, Renee Edwards, Rob DeSimone, Helen Larkin

Others present: Maryjane Malavasi, Laura Francis, John Szewczyk, James McLaughlin, Chuck Corley, Hannah Vahl

Call to order

Fran Korn called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS SECONDED BY ROB DESIMONE TO APPROVE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2010. ALL AYE

2009 Annual Report

M. Malavasi advised the Board that she was not ready to present; she has not received the reports from the printer.

Additional Appropriations: #9760 Skating Pond Transfer from Reserve

Billing for labor and material for the installation of (4) 35 ft class poles at White's Farm skating area on Rte. 68 completed on 12/29/2000 from McPhee Electric Ltd in the amount of \$4,452.00.

Electrical repairs and installation of (4) new lights by Planeta Electric in the amount of \$3,380.04

MOTION BY ROSEMARIE NAPLES SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO RECOMMEND THE SELECTMEN CALL A TOWN MEETING TO TRANSFER \$7,833 FROM #9760 SKATING POND REPAIR RESERVE FUND TO #2566 SKATING POND REPAIRS. ALL AYE

2010-2011 Budget Discussion

Local Receipts were reviewed. It was noted that the Resident State Trooper overtime for the Durham Fair has been eliminated because the State Police will be billing the Durham Fair Association direct. State revenue was also discussed; it was noted that the state revenue being presented were the Governors' recommendations. There was a short discussion on the DMYFS budget; the program currently does not have a Director and L. Francis and J. Brayshaw have made a commitment to get more involved in the program. Rosemarie Naples commented that she thought the program needed to have oversight by someone in the Selectmen's office. The budget review schedule was also discussed.

Renee Edwards was appointed as Board of Finance liaison to Board of Education meetings.

Board of Education budget presentation will be held on March 1st.

2010-2011 Budget Presentation from Board of Selectmen

Laura Francis opened her presentation by stating that this budget year has been very difficult for very good reasons and that the budget has been scrutinized over the past few years and it is very lean. She thanked all boards and commissions, department heads, and the selectmen for all the time they put in. She noted that the budget includes all contractual numbers including salaries and reported that they

did not reach a zero increase in part due to revenue decreases; 5.42% increase which represents \$277,586.

She then discussed the following items: budget goals; to preserve and protect the capital assets of the town, to promote the public safety of the residents, to encourage efficiency of town governmental operations and to stabilize property tax rate.

She explained budget challenges; 27% health insurance increase, drastic decreases in local and state revenue, aging municipal buildings and contractual agreements.

She also talked about the following budget highlights. An increase in the consultant budget for White's Farm; the Conservation Commission would like to get expert advice on flooding. The new establishment of a Durham Activity Center; the Selectmen are requesting a budget to rent out a facility as an activity center with no increases in personnel or programming and would not be seeking major renovations. Increased detail of the Emergency Medical Service budget and a new facilities management budget for all town owned buildings created to incorporate all service contracts together for greater efficiency and to track building condition and repairs.

L. Francis suggested possible savings by staff reorganization/reduction of hours, eliminating step increases for non union employees, calculating elected officials salaries at 3.25% over giveback salary amount, voluntary 1 or 2 furlough days and successful bidding. She talked about the possible reorganization of four staff of retirement age; one staff member is currently working 20 hours a week and she has offered three 40 hour staff members a reduction of hours to 20. She also suggested budgets she thought the Board of Finance should review; DMIAAB, DMYFS, and reserve account reallocation. She noted that some current budgets are currently being bid out so there may be some possible savings.

John Szewczyk thought that some major purchases in reserves could be pushed out and noted that he personally objected to taking out the crossing guard position. L. Francis responded that the town could not legally have a crossing on Route 17 and the crossing guard was currently being used on Strong School and should be an RSD13 expense.

J. McLaughlin thanked the Finance Director for doing such a good job and noted that he agreed not to underfund maintenance of town owned facilities.

Set time and date for Public Works Facility Tours

Discussion on available dates to arrange visits of Killingworth, East Haddam, and Portland public works facilities were discussed. B. Moncata will arrange the tour for a Friday in March.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

MOTION BY FRAN KORN SECONDED BY ROB DESIMONE TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 10:30 A.M. ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata