

**Board of Finance Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2009  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Fran Korn, Rosemarie Naples, Elmer Clark, Rob DeSimone, Jay Berardino  
**Others Present:** Maryjane Malavasi, Laura Francis, Harry Hall, George Eames, Geoff Colegrove, Jim Rossi

**Call to order**

Fran Korn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

MOTION BY ELMER CLARK SECONDED BY ROB DESIMONE TO APPROVE DECEMBER 16, 2008 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

**Invoices**

MOTION BY FRAN KORN SECONDED BY ROSEMARIE NAPLES TO APPROVE INVOICE FROM BETH MONCATA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82.50 FOR SECRETARIAL SERVICES. ALL AYE

**Correspondence**

A copy of the Call to Special Town Meeting for January 26<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. Maryjane Malavasi asked that one of the board members attend this meeting.

**Planning & Zoning 2008-2009 Budget Review**

George Eames was in attendance and presented a breakout of P&Z legal expenses for the current year that totaled \$36,400; he explained the greater part of this budget was the Silver Eagle appeal at \$16,850 and the horse crematorium appeal at \$13,125. F. Korn asked for if he knew the status of the rest of the year and Geoff Colegrove stated it would be difficult to predict, the Board currently has three active cases. F. Korn asked if \$36,000 was a fair budget number for next year and G. Colegrove felt this would be ok.

G. Colegrove also stated a letter has been sent to Jan Melnik on the status of the secretarial budget and requested her input as to how the Board can stay within their budget of \$7,000 for the remainder of this year and for next year. Maryjane Malavasi commented that the Board's transcription costs are significantly less than secretarial costs. G. Eames commented that this one project went out to bid.

G. Colegrove also stated a letter has been sent to Ed Grimes notifying him that the Board would be holding the line on the current budget and increases in next year's budget are to be avoided at all costs. They informed him he would not be compensated for attending meetings unless he was specifically requested to do so.

**Elderly Tax Relief - Establishing Cap and Annual Review**

MOTION BY FRAN KORN SECONDED BY ROSEMARIE NAPLES TO CAP THE SENIOR TAX RELIEF PROGRAM AT ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET. ALL AYE

**Request for Transfer from Reserve - Fire Department Equipment - SCBA**

Harry Hall was in attendance to talk about upgrades to the departments self contained breathing apparatus. In 2001, twenty-two state of the art Scott Airpacks were purchased with funds from the Fire Company reserve fund; the all met NFPA/OSHA standards and were compatible with mutual aid departments from Middlefield, Killingworth, and South Fire District in Middletown. Over the last five

years all surrounding towns have upgraded to a new version which are smaller in size and have added safety features. Over the last three budget cycles the department has requested and the Board has approved \$12,000 per year for this upgrade and H. Hall was now asking the Board to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$36,000.

MOTION BY ROSEMARIE NAPLES SECONDED BY JAY BERARDINO TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO CALL A TOWN MEETING TO TRANSFER \$36,000 FROM RESERVE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT SCOTT AIR PACKS TO #6700-494 CIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TO UPGRADE SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS. ALL AYE

**Additional Appropriations:**

**3500 Highway Projects - Haddam Quarter Road Bid**

L. Francis explained that thirteen bids were received and Kurt Bober interviewed the bottom three bidders with Town Engineer, Brian Curtis and the lowest bidder of \$19,435 was accepted. As soon as the weather gets better the job will be scheduled.

MOTION BY ROB DESIMONE SECONDED BY JAY BERARDINO TO TRANSFER \$19,435 FROM #6020 CONTINGENCY TO #3500-535 HADDAM QUARTER ROAD PROJECT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HEADWALL BASED ON BID PRICING. ALL AYE

**1520 Building & Health - Engineering Consultants**

L. Francis stated that Town Engineering Consultants is currently over budget by approximately \$7,400. The majority of the overage is due to the Crooked Hill Road project; to date there having been \$33,000 in expenditures. R. DeSimone asked if there will be additional expenses for Crooked Hill Road this year. L. Francis stated there will be the need of additional inspections. J. Berardino asked about the 3% fee and talked about the total budget expense vs the desire to share an engineer with the Town of Middlefield. L. Francis stated that projects of this nature, such as Crooked Hill Road, do not come up very often.

MOTION BY ROB DESIMONE SECONDED BY ELMER CLARK TO TRANSFER \$20,000 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO #1520 BUILDING & HEALTH FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO CROOKED HILL ROAD. ALL AYE

**7510 Household Hazardous Waste**

Tabled

**1010 BoS Consultants - Safety Evaluation**

L. Francis explained to the Board the active investigation of the State Police extended over the last ten months and their final report was issued one month ago. The report came back inconclusive of the origin of bullet strikes and also failed to make recommendations on safety; which was not part of their mission. She stated she had the full support of the Public Safety Committee and the Attorney General to hire an independent consultant to do a safety evaluation which would include safety measures of the range itself and the operation of the range. After reviewing three different consultants she chose Charles R. Golden and was requesting \$19,756 for the evaluation. She noted that she spoke with the Attorney General who stated he would help the town with funding from the State of CT but acknowledged that without this evaluation it would be difficult. R. Naples stated the State Police conducted an investigation with no conclusive information as to where the bullets were coming from and to conduct a study where the Range may not cooperate with the Town didn't make sense, she felt the town should not go forward until the Attorney General says the town has a leg to stand on; F. Korn felt if the town could assist through the study it may have a leg to stand on. Jim Rossi stated he visited the Blue Trail Range to look at the operation and buffers put in place and he feels there is no way the bullets can go over the buffers with the current improvements. F. Korn asked if the Blue Trail Range would grant access to the property. L. Francis stated the Blue Trail Range has been very

cooperative but there was no way in knowing; the Attorney General did say he would do whatever was needed if in fact they did not grant access. L. Francis said she feels the Town has an obligation to do this evaluation, that for ten years residents have been afraid. R. Naples said she is concerned about doing something for nothing and feels the town should work with the CT State Police about not reopening the areas of the range that have been closed. J. Berardino said he has seen the improvements at the Blue Trail Range and some have already been removed. He stated the Blue Trail Range was compelled to make improvements and subsequent to these improvements there have been hits in residential areas and he is embarrassed at the lack of the Towns commitment to resolve this problem. R. DeSimone summarized what he thought the process of the evaluation would be; the Town would hire a consultant, who would need the cooperation of the Blue Trial Range, to conduct a study in which they would make recommendations. He questioned what would happen if the Blue Trail Range did not agree to do the suggested recommendations; he felt at that time the Town would then need to go through the Attorney Generals office. L. Francis questioned if the study does not take place what would the Attorney Generals office do. F. Korn asked if in her conversation with the Attorney General did he think this was the right thing to do and L. Francis responded yes. She also stated the residents have been asking for a long time for something to be done and she needed to wait until the CT State Police report was compiled and filed; noting the Attorney General called her the next day. R. DeSimone asked if anyone from Durham had talked to Blue Trail Range. L. Francis stated yes, there have been several meetings and a hearing. J. Berardino commented that all kinds of misfires and accidents happen, there are ten's of thousands of rounds being shot every year and all the Attorney General and residents are asking for is that we back them up; we should move forward and support the Board of Selectmen on this decision.

MOTION BY JAY BERARDINO SECONDED BY FRAN KORN TO APPROPRIATE \$19,756 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO #1010-204 BOS CONSULTANTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT SAFETY EVALUATION OF BLUE TRAILS RANGE. 2 AYE FRAN KORN, JAY BERARDINO, 2 NAY ROSEMARIE NAPLES, ELMER CLARK, 1 ABSTAIN ROB DESIMONE

**Adjournment**

MOTION BY FRAN KORN SECONDED BY ELMER CLARK TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:12 P.M. ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata