

Board of Finance Meeting
8:00 a.m., Saturday, March 7, 2009
3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Minutes

Members present: Fran Korn, Loraine Coe, Rosemarie Naples, Elmer Clark, Rob DeSimone, Maryjane Malavasi. Jay Berardino arrived at 8:30.

Others present: Martin French, Brian Ameche, Casey Cordes, Geoff Colegrove, Richard Ericksen, Peter Cascini

1020 - Office of the Tax Collector

Martin French was present to review budget.

Line #151 Legal ads - reduced; required public notices (3) times a year.

Line #153 Dues & Meetings - increase; also noted was did not take into account the need to adjust for postage increase.

Line #154 Printing - expense for tax payer guide questioned; reduced from a quantity of 7,000 to 5,000.

F. Korn asked M. French to provide the Board of Finance with a tax summary sheet.

1021 - Tax Collector Salary

Increase reflected in fy09-10 projection but will be given back to contingency.

1022 - Tax Collector Office Staff Salary

Reflects new union rate.

2020 - Conservation Commission

Brian Ameche and Casey Cordes were present to review budget.

B. Ameche stated he met with the Board of Selectmen and reduced the budget as far as the commission could go but would consider others.

Line #127 Recording secretary - reduced

Line #152 Dues & meetings - reduced

Line #153 Postage - eliminated

Line #154 Printing - Durham calendar - eliminated

Line #204 Consultants - represents (2) land appraisals for open space; same properties as last year, appraisals but have expired. If the commissions needs to close on a property commission will come back to Board for funds.

Line #449 Mowing - reduced. It was noted that town is being compensated for haying rights.

There are five properties that are being considered by the commission for open space:

- Czaja property off 147
- Kazinski property adjacent too Brewster School
- Morrissey property that abuts State Forest and Water Company property
- Fulton Forbes property at the south end of town, Route 17
- Property off 77 near Mica Hill subdivision

1555 - Planning & Zoning Legal and Litigation

Geoff Colegrove and Richard Eriksen were present to review budget.

It was noted that there has been no additional action in reference to legal expenses since the last discussion with the Board of Finance.

2010 - Planning & Zoning

Line #204 Consultants - G. Colegrove originally took \$5,000 out of this line and moved to 2011 Assistant ZEO for a new position that would alleviate him of some zoning enforcement responsibilities. This new position would offer a more experienced enforcement officer than the town's current officer. There would be no fringe benefits for this position.

Add new line to this budget for ZEO in the amount of \$10,000.
Eliminate 2011 Assistant ZEO - moved to 2010-204.

2015 - Economic Development

Peter Cascini was in attendance to review budget and stated the EDC is willing for this year to cut their budget \$2,500 in order to help with the town's financial deficit. He stated the commission has been working with the Board of Selectmen and G. Colegrove on the Lake Grove Property and they are also planning a special project by participating in the Durham Fair this year to promote business in Durham. They will be setting up a booth to display aerial photos of different properties available both residential and commercial and will also be soliciting businesses that would provide brochures and handouts. J. Berardino talked about outreach that Conservation takes in soliciting for open space and suggested this committee could do the same. P. Cascini commented that the commission has sent out brochures in the past and also talked about the possibility of participating in the Middlesex Business Expo next year. The Board urged P. Cascini to absorb as much of the expense to be incurred to participate in the Durham Fair this fiscal year. R. DeSimone asked if the commission would consider putting a link on the CT Economic Development website to the Town of Durham's website. M. Malavasi questioned the use CERC Sitefinder asking if they joined yet since it was currently a budgeted item. P. Cascini stated no, and talked about the recent negative publicity and the need to change this.

General meeting items

M. Malavasi reviewed a spreadsheet that represented a 10 year capital improvement plan for town owned buildings. R. DeSimone asked for an update on energy efficiency gain on big items such as oil, electricity etc. F. Korn asked that data per building be consolidated with this spreadsheet. M. Malavasi stated she could get the energy data and work on consolidating the town owned building schedule with the capital improvement plan for the next meeting.

M. Malavasi also discussed revenue and cautioned that all dollars presented in the budget by the Board of Selectmen are too high and that most revenue coming in is much lower for this year.

F. Korn asked M. Malavasi to provide him with new housing numbers for 2006, 2007, and 2008 and the number of current building permits.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Beth Moncata