

Minutes

Board of Finance Regular Meeting

November 16, 2010

Room 206-7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Martha Banks at 7:35 PM. All members of the Board of Finance were present except Gwen Mogenson. Also in attendance was Kate Clarke Buch, Finance Director. The meeting was broadcast over Channel 79.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Banks asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jon Zagrodzky nominated Elizabeth Smith Mao, and Murry Stegelmann seconded the nomination. The motion passed 6-0.

Gwen Mogenson arrived at the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Ms. Banks offered sincere thanks to Mr. Stegelmann for his three years of hard work and dedication as Chairman of the Board of Finance. Similar sentiments were expressed by other members of the Board.

Ms. Banks asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Gwen Mogenson nominated Martha Banks, and Joe Duwan seconded the nomination. The motion passed 7-0. Ms. Mogenson thanked Ms. Banks for her prior service, a sentiment echoed by other Board members.

Ms. Banks asked for nominations for the position of Clerk. Liz Mao nominated Jon Zagrodzky, and Gwen Mogenson seconded the nomination. The motion passed 7-0.

With the election of officers completed, Ms. Banks turned the meeting over to the new Chairman, Ms. Mao. Ms. Mao once again expressed her thanks to Mr. Stegelmann, stating that he was a tough act to follow but also that she was happy to take on the role.

BOND RESOLUTION – WEED BEACH

Ms. Mao referred the Board to a new draft resolution to increase the bond and note authorization for the Weed Beach project from \$2,000,000 to \$3,300,000. Kate Buch noted

that the new draft reflected the sense of the Board articulated at the October 19th meeting, which was to increase the original bonding amount. She also indicated that the total appropriated for the project was \$3,600,000, and that \$300,000 had been spent to date.

Joe Duwan moved that the resolution be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

TRANSFERS UNDER \$5,000

The Department of Public Works asked for a transfer from the Heights Road Drainage account to the Townwide Drainage Account in the amount of \$4,637.65 to cover cost overruns related to the Milone & MacBroom contract. The overspending was attributable to reimbursable costs.

Joe Duwan moved that the transfer be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

TRANSFERS OVER \$5,000

The Board of Education asked for a transfer from the recently completed Holmes School boiler project to fund emergency repairs to the heating system at Ox Ridge Elementary School. The Holmes account had extra funds available due to lower bids received for the Holmes work, and after the proposed transfer would still have \$50,000.

The Ox Ridge repairs entailed replacing the boiler feed water make-up tank and associated pumps piping and valves. The BoE expected to ask for these repairs in next year's budget.

Gwen Mogenson moved the approval of the proposed transfer in the amount of \$40,000. The motion passed 7-0.

During the discussion, Ms. Mao made special mention of Paul Engemann, the Director of School Facilities, Construction and Operations, who passed away earlier in the month. The Board joined Ms. Mao in conveying its strong appreciation for Mr. Engemann and its condolences for the school community and Mr. Engemann's family.

The Board also considered a transfer to fund the installation of a new boiler at the Darien Fire Department. DFD Chief Risk Weatherstone and a colleague addressed the Board. They had believed that the installation funds were in their budget, not realizing that these funds had been deleted in the final budget. They asked for a transfer of \$15,000 from the DFD small capital account to supplement the \$25,000 already spent on installation, which was underway.

As part of the discussion, Murry Stegelmann emphasized the need for a policy on capital expenditures for facilities not owned by the town.

Mr. Stegelmann moved that the transfer be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

The Board the following contingency transfer requests.

- Registrar of Voters – Elections. The Registrar asked for additional funds due to a shortfall resulting from the 2010 gubernatorial election. Joe Duwan moved that the transfer be approved. The motion passed 7-0.
- Post 53 – Capital. Ron Hammer, Director of Post 53, presented to the Board a proposal to enter into an agreement with the Southwestern Regional Communications Center (CMED) to handle emergency medical services dispatching. The arrangement would result in faster response times for paramedic services and would require a one-time capital expenditure as well as incremental annual operating costs. The Board of Selectmen considered and approved the request.

Mr. Hammer proposed transfers of \$18,561 from the BoF Contingency fund for capital costs and \$16,156 from the General Fund for the 2010-2011 operating costs (the estimated full-year operating costs would be \$32,000). Mr. Stegelmann moved that the transfers be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kate Buch presented the monthly financial report. She highlighted regulatory costs, which are likely to exceed budget due to an ongoing case. She also mentioned the receipt of a “competitive video grant” from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$76,000. In addition, Kate mentioned that the sewer operating fund was likely to go over because a project budgeted last year will instead be done this year.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011

The Board considered a meeting schedule for 2011, which would entail meeting the third Tuesday of each month except August. A final decision was delayed until the December meeting.

MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The Board reviewed minutes from the October 19th meeting, making minor corrections. Murry Stegelmann moved that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Liz Mao reported on the Police Building Committee, indicating that a bid package had gone out and that a groundbreaking was scheduled for March.

The Committee formed to draft the Five Year Plan presented its work. The draft Plan, due by December 6th, included budgets as proposed by the Board of Education and others. The Board made minor edits but also expressed concerns about spending levels and taxes. Jon Zagrodzky moved the approval of the Plan along with a statement of the Board's dissatisfaction with the overall spending levels and implied mill rate increases. The motion passed 7-0.

Liz Mao provided a brief chairman's report, indicating that she would be attending the OPC meeting on Thursday, November 21st.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Jon Zagrodzky made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0 at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Zagrodzky
Clerk