

BOARD OF FINANCE

MINUTES

August 26, 2002

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall, by Chairman Tom Harrison. Present were Members Tom Gugliotti, Bill Hooper, Steve McGuff, Michael Monts, Jim Speich and Mark Zacchio.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Mark Zacchio, the Pledge was recited by all.
- III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE -None.
- IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: May 15 and May 29, 2002. On a motion made by Mr. Speich, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance accept the minutes of the May 15 and May 29, 2002 meetings, as submitted.

Messrs. Harrison, Gugliotti, Hooper, McGuff, Monts, Speich and Zacchio voted in favor.

The Town Manager reported there are additional minutes from May and June which have not been approved. They will be on your next agenda.

V. OLD BUSINESS -None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

02/03-01 -Supplemental Appropriation: \$238,655
Board of Education, State and Federal Education Grants, Special Education.

In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, the Town Manager reported these funds are earmarked for Special Education in specific Grant Programs on a normal reimbursement basis. Mr. Harrison also questioned Ms. Friedman's memo to Mr. Franzi which says "the Board received a total of \$663,655", is this \$238,655 included or is it additional? Ms. Colligan reported the original budget appropriation was \$425,000 and they received additional funds of \$238,655.

On a motion made by Mr. Monts, seconded by Mr. McGuff, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FYOI/02 Budget by increasing REVENUES State and Federal Educational Grants, Special Education #13-0330-43343, \$238,655 and increasing APPROPRIATIONS State and Federal Education Grants, Board of Education, State Grants, #13-9401-59200, \$238,655, for the purpose of

recording additional funds available to the Town from the State and Federal Government.

Messrs. Harrison, Gugliotti, McGuff, Monts, Speich and Zacchio voted in favor. Mr. Hooper abstained.

02/03-02 - Supplemental Appropriation: \$9,722 -Avon Police Department, Reimbursement, Statewide Narcotics Task Force.

On a motion made by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY01/02 Budget by increasing REVENUES General Fund, State and Federal Grant, Statewide Narcotic Task Force #01-0330-43364, \$9,722 and increasing APPROPRIATIONS General Fund, Patrol Services -Overtime Account #01-2101-52181, \$8,222, and Administrative Account, Printing, #01-2101-52181, \$1,500 for the purpose of reimbursement for the inter-town main narcotic grant and for supplies related to the DARE program.

Messrs. Harrison, Gugliotti, Hooper, McGuff, Monts, Speich and Zacchio voted in favor.

02/03-03 - Supplemental Appropriation: \$4,300. Avon Police Department, Reimbursement, Statewide Narcotics Task Force.

On a motion made by Mr. McGuff, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY01/02 Budget by increasing REVENUES General Fund, State and Federal Grant, Statewide Narcotic Task Force #01-0330-43364, \$4,300, and increasing APPROPRIATIONS General Fund, Patrol Services -Overtime Account #01-2107-51015, \$4,300, for the purpose of reimbursement for the inter-town main narcotic grant.

Messrs. Harrison, Gugliotti, Hooper, McGuff, Monts, Speich and Zacchio voted in favor.

02/03-04 - Review and Discussion: Date, Time and Agenda: Joint Board of Finance, Town Council and Board of Education Meeting.

Mr. Harrison reported in view of the whole situation this spring with the budget referenda and the defeat of the budget which necessitated a second referendum, it makes sense that the three boards that are involved in the budget process look at ways to avoid a similar situation in the future. He reported the sense he got from Dick Hines and Pam Friedman was that they thought it would make sense to do this at this time of year. Tonight he would like to see two or three dates recommended and two or three locations that may be acceptable to all three boards, recognizing that we will probably never get 100%. He also feels we should select several topics of discussion. The Town Manager has suggested that since this Board has initiated this process, we would act as "host" of the meeting. Mr. Harrison would like to have a more informal setting than the Chamber, such as the Senior Center, or somewhere where the three Boards would all be equal.

First regarding to the dates, we should consider late September, early October, probably not on Thursday. The Board discussed the published meetings dates of the other two Boards, the availability of the members and staff, and agreed to recommend Monday, September 30th, Monday, October 7th or Tuesday, October 8th. It was decided that the Library, the Senior Center or Countryside Park would be an acceptable location to meet. Mr. Schenck will check into the availability of the sites. Basically, the Board preferred the Library and asked Mr. Schenck to arrange this if possible.

Several ideas for discussion were considered; Could a tax impact statement be developed so we would know how much impact a given increase would have; make use of a survey of the citizens such as West Hartford has used; get all feelings on the board, good, bad or indifferent; who is right; what went wrong; what could we have done better; basically, we do not want to appear to be the "Big, Bad Guys". There was definitely a "them vs. us" feeling that we should avoid at all costs in the future.

Mr. Gugliotti indicated there is nothing in the Charter that says they have to do this, but if we're going to have a heart to heart session, one of the things I want to talk about is once the Board of Finance has gone through the process and says this is going to be the number, and we go to the budget meeting putting it forward, we all should put on a smile and do the best we can to try to make it work. Mr. Harrison agreed it is not healthy to have it look like we're fighting each other. He also feels that in spite of the publicity sent out last year, maybe there should be more, and other kinds, of communications. He reported the PTO's have set up some e-mail communication system, they may be able to help with this. Perhaps they will let us use their e-mail list. Mr. Zacchio feels we need to work more closely with the other boards to develop a baseline and build on that; we would like to know just what the "rocks" are that cannot be ignored. Review programs that have not been successful to see if they can be eliminated and replaced with something innovative that is wanted.

It was suggested to send a questionnaire to the residents; the Town Manager will check with Barry Feldman from West Hartford who has used this tool in the past. It seems they were very successful using peer groups, taxpayer groups, etc. The Town Manager will look into this. Where were cuts made in the past several years? How did they affect the overall quality of education in Avon. After further discussion, it was decided that the purpose of the meeting should be to promote more cooperation, whether it means complimenting or criticizing, to promote the idea that we are all working for the Town. What did we do wrong? what could we have done better? Basically, how can we better prepare to develop the budgets.

The Chairman asked that if any new thoughts arise, that they be e-mailed, mailed or phoned to him to be included in the agenda. He asked that the Town Manager coordinate the date for the meeting, September 30th, October 7th or October 8th; that it will be held preferably at the Library, but the Senior Center or Countryside Park if we can't get the Library. It'll start at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Schenck will prepare a draft agenda based upon what the Board has discussed. You will have your own crib sheets of what you want to get out

on the table. Mr. Harrison requested that the Town Manager suggest that the three Chair persons should be talking together and consulting with their Boards regarding what should be discussed.

It was requested that the Town Manager develop an agenda for a meeting of the Board of Finance, Town Council and Board of Education, to be held on (date) at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Public Library.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS - Mr. McGuff commented on a press release indicating that Tom Gugliotti, a principal in the Hartford-based law firm of Updike, Kelly and Spellacy, P.C. has been elected chairman of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. The Board expressed their individual kudos on this fine achievement.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS -None.

IX. ADJOURN -On a motion made by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mr. McGuff, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Messrs. Harrison, Gugliotti, Hooper, McGuff, Monts, Speich and Zacchio voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas A. Gugliotti, Secretary

Attest:

Elinor Burns, Clerk