

**Finance Committee and**  
**Capital Outlay Committee (CIC) Minutes**  
**Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center**  
**Monday, September 24, 2007**

1. Present:

FinCom: Raymond Szczepan, Gary Maynard, Henri Masson, Joseph Collamati, Carol Dill, Toni Picariello

CIC: Michael Tobin, Joseph Collamati, Toni Picariello

2. Absent:

FinCom: Roland Lavallee

CIC: Mary Beth Cuomo, Roland Lavallee

3. Meeting called to order for FinCom and CIC: 7:15 p.m.

4. **WELCOME MICHAEL TOBIN (CIC MEMBER)**

Both committees welcomed Michael Tobin to the Capital Improvement Committee. The FinCom and CIC work very closely together.

5. **SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

Article 7 – Transportation Contract.

Toni Picariello received an email from the superintendent: “Lee Ambler believes that this issue is not appropriate at this time, and will therefore be passed over.”

*Henri Masson/Raymond Szczepan motion to pass over this article. VOTE: 6/0*

6. **FIRE DEPARTMENT (FinCom & CIC)**

Article 2 –Capital Outlay (Ambulance)

Amount requested \$225,000.

Joseph Collamati read and went through the 99 page specification. He noticed that in the previous specification that the service center had to be within a 50-mile radius, but in the current specification the radius was changed to 20-miles. The Chief said that would be negotiated.

On Page 11 – Spec mentions “Ford”, the bid will be for an “International”.

What are the on-the-spot automatic tire chains? On the chassis there is a switch and chains are automatically put on the tires by a hydraulic devise. All the vehicles have this feature. It is incase the truck in on the road during a snow storm and on an unplowed street.

There is tinted glass on the side doors so you can't see in or out. This is for privacy of the patient.

The Chief mentioned that even though the Town voted for a new ambulance in 2004, it was not received until November 2005. If the Town meeting votes for the new ambulance, they will open bids around March/April 2008 and then it will be another 9 months before they get the Ambulance.

The Chief mention that they are on a 3-3½ year plan or policy to replace the oldest ambulance. This was put in place when they had the gas-driven Fords.

The FinCom believe that the replacement plan/policy should be changed to 4 years/8 years. The ambulances are made stronger, they are diesel, and there are warranties.

The newer ambulance has approximately 30,000 miles on it and the older one has approximately 56,000 miles. They average around 1,500 miles per month. There is no problem with the electrical on either ambulance.

Michael Tobin mentioned that we should not be replacing functional assets.

The FinCom and CIC have heard details on this request at past meetings (see end notes for those details)<sup>1</sup>

***For CIC - Toni Picariello/Michael Tobin motion to NOT RECOMMEND this capital request. VOTE: 3/0.***

***For FinCom – Henri Masson/Raymond Szczepan motion to NOT RECOMMEND this capital request. VOTE: 6/0.***

7. **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

A. Accept FinCom minutes for September 10, 2007 and September 17, 2007.

***Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to accept the September 10, 2007 minutes with minor corrections. VOTE: 5/0/1 (Carol Dill was not present at that meeting)***

***Carol Dill/Raymond Szczepan motion to accept the September 17, 2007 minutes with minor corrections. VOTE: 4/0/2 (Joseph Collamati and Gary Maynard were not present at that meeting)***

B. Vote to pay Clerk's Stipend for July, August & September.

***Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to pay clerk's stipend for July, August and September 2007 in the amount of \$695.01. VOTE: 5/0/1 (Toni Picariello is the clerk).***

C. Toni Picariello reminded everyone of the All Boards Meeting scheduled for September 1, 2007.

Adjourned: **CIC: Toni Picariello/Michael Tobin motion to adjourn: VOTE: 3/0.**  
7:45 p.m.

**FinCom: Raymond Szczepan/Carol Dill motion to adjourn. VOTE:**  
**6/0. 7:50 p.m.**

(Accepted 12/10/2007)

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<sup>1</sup> 9/10/2007 - Amount requested is \$225,000. The Chief did not have a current specification or quote for the ambulance he was requesting. He bought the specifications for the last ambulance that was bought in 2005.

The older ambulance (bought in 2002) has only approximately 60,000 miles on it and the new one has 28,000. These are diesel vehicles.

Gary Maynard informed the committee that diesel vehicles should last longer than 60,000 miles. The ambulance does not have any rot or rust on the chassis. The ambulances are medium duty and they idle a long time. Gary Maynard again informed the committee that diesel trucks are suppose to idle. Gary Maynard does not like giving out a "blank check" and wants to see a quote.

9/17/2007 – Discussion with Board of Selectmen - Roland Lavalée questioned the need for the Fire Department Ambulance. Ann Odabashian stated that the Fire Department is on a purchase plan to obtain a new ambulance every 3 years and by the time they bid and receive the ambulance it is 4 years.

Roland Lavalée continued his questioning and stated that new ambulances are made better, they last longer and the Fire Chief's complaint about the electrical system malfunctioning was unfounded. The electrical systems are warranted for 10 years, so we are getting rid of an ambulance before the warranty expires. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen reconsider the turn-over of the ambulances to maybe 4-5 years.