

Finance Committee Minutes

Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center

Monday, January 8, 2007

1. Present: Henri Masson, Raymond Szczepan, Roland Lavallee, Joseph Collamati, Toni Picariello, Carol Dill, Gary Maynard
2. Absent: N/A
3. Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.
4. **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER**

Marilyn Mathieu appeared requesting a reserve fund transfer of \$10,000.00 into the OJI (On the Job Injury). There are 3 employees, one Police & two Firefighters, still on OJI and they are not covered by Worker's Compensation and still need to be paid their full salary until they return to work.

The police and firefighters receive their full salary, which means federal & state withholding are not deducted, only pension costs are deducted. There is no incentive for the injured to return to work. The town checks up on the injured and sends them to get an independent medical exam with the Town's doctor.

Raymond Szczepan/Henri Masson motion to recommend a reserve fund transfer of \$10,000.00 to the OJI Account. VOTE: 6/1/0 (Toni Picariello voted 'no' on principle, because she does not believe one employee should be more privileged than another employee)

5. **JOINT MEETING WITH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**
Regarding 2008 Budget and Revenues and Board of Selectmen meeting on January 22, 2007.

Marilyn Mathieu appeared.

Marilyn Mathieu informed us that she level funded the FinCom budget and set the Reserve Fund budget at \$150,000.00. The FinCom will need to vote on these amounts.

Joseph Collamati asks that the 5-year capital plan be refined. Wants to take out capital projects and have a "bare bones" budget. He mentioned that to accomplish funding capital projects, the Town would need a debt exclusion or an override.

Marilyn Mathieu said that they have tried to keep staffing down. When employees leave, they are not being replaced. The salary increases are 3% this year. Health insurance budget will be increasing. The School department is doing an energy study, which will include the town buildings.

The legislature is talking about giving towns a local tax option, which will consist of allowing towns to implement a town sales tax.

The FinCom will be looking at all the budgets once the Board of Selectmen have received them all and will have prioritized departments during the budget process.

The FinCom and Capital Improvement Committee will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 22, 2007 to discuss the budget process and that the 3 committees should go to Town Meeting in agreement.¹

6.. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Accept minutes for September 25, 2006, October 11, 2006 and November 27, 2006.

All minutes were accepted with minor correction to be made:

Joseph Collamati/Roland Lavallee motion to accept 9/25/2006 minutes. VOTE: 7/0.

Roland Lavallee/Henri Masson motion to accept 10/11/2006 minutes. VOTE: 7/0.

Joseph Collamati/Roland Lavallee motion to accept 11/27/2006 minutes. VOTE: 7/0.

Adjourned: *Roland Lavallee/Raymond Szczepan motion to adjourn. VOTE: 7/0. 8:15 p.m.*

(Accepted February 12, 2007)

¹ ¹ January 22, 2007 meeting with Board of Selectmen was held. The FinCom will have the budgets from the Board of Selectmen on February 20, 2007. The departments will be prioritized by “must have” and “nice to have”. Next meeting will be an “open meeting” with the CIC and Denis Fraine on February 12, 2007.