

BOARD OF FINANCE – REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 127 NORWICH AVENUE  
Suite 201  
MARCH 5, 2008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Ronald Goldstein, Ronald Crabb, John Ringo, Michael Ryan, Brian Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman Bruce Hayn.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Linda Hodge, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Stan Soby, Greg Cordova; Treasurer Jon Sandberg, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove; Steven Schuster, Linda Grzeika.

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Vice Chairman Goldstein called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

**2.1 February 20, 2008 Regular Meeting**

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2008, Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance as read.

**Second by:** R. Crabb.

**Vote:** Opposed: No one.

Abstaining: M. Ryan (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. Motion CARRIED.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.**

**3.1 Finance Department.**

No report this evening.

**4. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Steven Schuster addressed the Board stating that he felt the \$84,000 recently spent to purchase a payloader for snow removal should be paid out of the Board of Education budget as the main reason for purchasing it was to prevent late school openings. He said he felt it was an unnecessary expense. He also thought that in the last few years there has been a lack of accountability and questioning of the Department Heads regarding the budget. The Board should be better watchdogs.

**5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA.**

No additions were requested.

## 6. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT.

### 6.1 Selectmen's Agenda

#### 6.1.1 Transfer Requests.

The Board of Selectmen approved the following transfer from the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget at their February 21, 2008, regular meeting:

The First Selectman requests a transfer of \$6,000 to cover interim BOE IT employee and to increase salary of newly hired IT person to allow work on documentation of system, training of employees, system configuration.

**FROM:** Account #11201-40102 Other Reg Payroll \$6000

**TO:** Account #11901-40101 Central Services Reg Payroll 6000

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to approve the request to transfer \$6,000 for the IT personnel as stated above.

**Second by:** R. Crabb.

**Vote:** Unanimous by those present.

Planning and Code Administration requests a transfer of \$6,588 to cover a temporary clerk through June 30 to work with Economic Development and assist the Town Planner and to cover the one-year agreement made with current Department Administrative Assistant to temporarily increase pay through June 30 for additional duties incurred by not filling the Planner's vacant clerk position.

**FROM:** Account #11411-40101 Regular Payroll \$6,588

**TO:** Account #11411-40102 Other Reg & Part-time Payroll 6,588

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to approve the request for a transfer of \$6,588 for the temporary clerk and the Administrative Assistant temporary pay increase.

**Second by:** J. Ringo.

**Vote:** Unanimous by those present.

First Selectman requests a transfer of \$3,600 to allow the Tax Collector to hire a temporary clerk for ten week to work on collections.

**FROM:** Account #11201-40102 Other Reg & Part-Time Payroll \$3,600

**TO:** Account #11303-40102 Tax Collector Other Reg & P/T Pay 3,600

**Motion by:** R. Crabb

to approve the request for \$3,600 to allow the Tax Collector temporary help with collections pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.

**Second by:** B. Smith.

**Vote:** Unanimous by those present.

#### 6.1.2 First Selectman's Update.

Selectmen Hodge gave the proposed 2008-2009 budget books to Board members who had not already received them.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE.

A revised Budget Meeting Schedule dated March 4, 2008, was presented to the members. A public hearing to present the budget to the public and answer questions has been scheduled for April 21, 2008.

Two hearings are required by Town Charter. Dates were discussed as the Town Expo is taking place on April 22, 2008. April 23, 2008 will be the date of the second hearing, scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Education will decide at their March 11, 2008 Board meeting what date to present their budget to the Board of Finance and the Budget Schedule will be revised.

## 8. LIAISON REPORTS.

R. Goldstein stated that the Board of Education has decided to reduce their budget by \$150,000. That amount has been used to determine the present proposed budget figure. A BOE budget meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss where those reductions will come from.

First Selectman Linda Hodge said she has received the reports from the Department Heads and is gathering pictures and items to give to B. Smith for the Annual Report. Ford Folios will be printing the report.

**9. OLD BUSINESS.**

No old business.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion followed on the proposed budget and the direction the Board will take. As members have not had time to review the budget figures, the discussion turned to how to better inform the public of the process. The budget will be on the website and a printed copy is available at the Selectman's office. Further discussion will take place at the March 19, 2008 Board of Finance meeting.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Motion by:** M. Ryan  
to adjourn.

**Second by:** J. Ringo.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

Vice Chairman Goldstein adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Clerk