

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
127 NORWICH AVENUE
Wednesday, November 18, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chairman Hayn, John Ringo, Cathy Pompei, Brian Smith, Rob Tarlov

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Caplet, Maggie Cosgrove, CFO, Gregg LePage, Treasurer, Rosemary Coyle, BOS, Stan Soby, BOS, Rob Esteve, First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Sean O'Leary

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hayn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

2.1 November 4, 2009 Regular Meeting: J. Ringo motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November 4, 2009 amending Item 9.2, sentence 3, to read '*The mature date of the bond will remain the same.*', seconded by Brian Smith. All members present voted in favor with C. Pompei abstaining. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN: J. Ringo motioned to nominate B. Hayn as Chairman, seconded by B. Smith. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Ringo motioned to nominate R. Tarlov as Vice-Chairman, seconded by B. Smith. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5.1 Finance Department: Our collection rate is on target. Interest gain is down considerably from last year. Health Insurance cost continues to be high. The Tax Collector cash report was assessed. The part-time person for that department is still there to work on back taxes and is budgeted for throughout the year.

6. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: J. Ringo motioned to add Discussion of Park and Rec Lighting Fees as item 6.1, seconded by B. Smith. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Ringo motioned to add item 11.1 Liaison Assignment List, and item 11.3 Vacancy of Ron Goldstein, seconded by B. Smith. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6.1. Sean O'Leary, Chairman of Park and Rec Commission said that the Colchester Youth Sports Leagues have approached the commission asking them to speak with the Board of Finance about setting up an account specifically for lighting fees. The leagues are currently being charge a 1.8 rate on lighting fees. The fee includes the cost of lighting with the remaining percentage being charged for lighting maintenance. The lights remain under warranty for three more years. At that time an extended warranty can be purchased at the cost of \$5,000 for 5yrs. The usage fees collected at this time are being placed in the general fund. Sports leagues are concerned that with the fees being placed in a general fund that there is no guarantee the money they are paying will actually be available for maintenance when needed. They would like to see if money can go in a separate account to provide assurance it will indeed be available when needed. During the past year the lighting costs to the town were \$ 7,900. Leagues were charged a total of \$14,200. For just a bulb replacement the cost is approximately \$1,000. There are a required number of bulbs that have to be working in order to meet some leagues' requirements, emphasizing the need for the lights to be up kept. Chairman Hayn explained that there is a lot of revenue that is collected and placed in a general fund. Necessities, such as maintenance of lights, are then calculated in to the department's budget. He said that we are in the beginning stages of the budget process and urged the Park and Rec Commission to add a line item in their budget for lighting maintenance if there is not one already in there. Mr. O'Leary still expressed concern saying that the town is not proactive in maintenance and the Park and Rec budget is always slashed drastically. Chairman Hayn, while agreeing being proactive would be ideal, said that people do not want to see the budget go too high and if we start putting in maintenance costs that is what will happen. There was consensus by all that a separate account for lighting

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should stay in the budget thought process. First Selectman Schuster told S. O'Leary he understands that the leagues are looking for a guarantee that the money will be there. He asked Mr. O'Leary to make an appointment to speak with him and discuss alternative ways to achieve this.

7. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

7.1. Selectman's Agenda

7.1.1. Transfer Requests: None

7.1.2 First Selectman's Update: Transfer from previous First Selectman to him went smoothly.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None

9. LIAISON REPORTS: None

10. OLD BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Liaison Assignment List: Due to new board members liaisons will be as follows:

Fire Department – Bruce Hayn
Youth Services – John Ringo
Police – John Ringo
Town Clerk – John Ringo
Public Works – Rob Tarlov
Library – Rob Tarlov
Senior Center – Brian Smith
Annual Report – Brian Smith
Board of Education – remains open at this time.

11.2 2010 Meeting Dates: Meetings will continue to be the first and third Wednesday of each month. Due to holidays the December 1st meeting will be scheduled for December 8th and the December 15th meeting will be held December 22nd. Chairman Hayn requested these dates be checked with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Clerk to verify there are no conflicts with other town events or meeting. The dates will be approved at the next meeting.

11.3 Vacancy of Ron Goldstein: A Republican is needed to fill the spot. If applications are received by the next meeting interviews will be held then.

12. ADJOURNMENT: J. Ringo motioned to adjourn, seconded by B. Smith All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Hayn motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.


Dawn LePage, Clerk