



Board of Finance

BOARD OF FINANCE – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 127 NORWICH AVENUE
JANUARY 21, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bruce Hayn, Ronald Goldstein, Brian Smith, John Ringo
MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Ryan, Ronald Crabb.
OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Linda Hodge, Treasurer Jon Sandberg, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Mike Caplet, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Stan Soby; Scout Leaders Bob Maynard and Chris Boix and Scouts R.J. Maynard, Zach Boix and Kevin Lynch from Troop 109.

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COLCHESTER, CT
2009 JAN 23 AM 10:08
NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK
Nancy Bray

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Hayn called this meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

2.1 January 7, 2008 Regular Meeting

Motion by: J. Ringo

to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting with a correction to Page 2, second sentence, change 24' to 24" of snow.

Second by: B. Smith.

Vote: Abstaining: B. Smith. (absent from meeting),
In favor: All others present. **Approved.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORT.

3.1 Tax Collector

Tax Collector Tricia Coblentz provided the Board with reports on the delinquent tax collections.

3.2 Finance Department

M. Cosgrove provided Revenue and Expenditure Reports through December 31, 2008. Revenue is still at the level it was last year at this time. The question about a spending freeze was discussed.

Motion by: R. Goldstein

to place a freeze on spending for any non-essential or discretionary items.

Second by: B. Smith.

Vote: Unanimous.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

The Scouts in attendance did not have any questions or comments at this time.

Motion by: R. Goldstein

to add Citizen Comments at the end of the agenda to give the Scouts a chance to ask questions.

Second by: J. Ringo.

Vote: Unanimous.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA.

No additions requested.

6. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT.

6.1 Selectmen's Agenda

6.1.1 Transfer Requests.

No transfers presented.

6.1.2 First Selectman's Update.

Selectman Hodge stated that the HVAC system was fixed over the weekend. The circuit board must be built to the system and will be ready in two weeks. The thermostats will be adjusted this week.

The Tax Collector is placing articles in the paper and on the website reminding citizens that the second installment of taxes is due in January. A second notice will not be sent.

Budget preparations are the major focus at this time. Departments are working on encumbering contract amounts and reimbursements. All departments are reviewing revenue and fee structures.

Discussion followed on how to best receive public input for the budget process. A committee will be formed to draw up a survey, possibly create a new website for the survey noting the loss of State revenue, grand list growth, possibly bonding large items.

Snow continues to fall on weekends and holidays causing concern; legal expenses are also a concern. The Board members would like to see a report on legal at the next meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

No correspondence received.

8. LIAISON REPORTS.

R. Goldstein stated the Administrators plan to present the Education budget to the Board of Education next week.

J. Ringo will attend the Police Commission meeting on Monday, January 26, 2009.

B. Hayn attended the recent quarterly Chairmen's meeting.

9. OLD BUSINESS.

9.1 Purchasing Policy discussion and Possible Action.

Members were asked to forward any comments or suggestions to Selectman Hodge prior to the next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Parks and Recreation Dept Bid Waiver Request for Cross Alert System.

Parks and Recreation has received a \$15,500 grant to purchase a Cross Alert System to be placed in the crosswalk area on Route 149 to alert motorists when pedestrians are approaching.

There is one company that gave a quote two years ago when the grant was written and they are willing to hold that price.

Director Jay Cohen is requesting a bid waiver to save time as other companies do not make the cross alert system as specified in the grant application.

Chairman Hayn suggested that quotes be sought due to the economy and the time of year causing a delay in the work.

Motion by; B. Smith

to table the requests for a waiver until further information is received.

Second by: J. Ringo.

Vote: Unanimous.

10.2 Citizen Comments

The Scouts asked how they could help with the budget process. Suggestions were discussed and C. Boix stated there are other Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in Town that may be willing to help with attendance at budget meetings. The Scouts were invited back to a future meeting to discuss ideas and offer suggestions.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by: J. Ringo
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: B. Smith.

Vote: Unanimous.

Chairman Hayn adjourned this meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk