

Board of Finance

2009 FEB - 6 PM 3:30

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COLCHESTER, CT

*Nancy A. Bray*  
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TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF FINANCE – REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 127 NORWICH AVENUE  
Suite 201  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Linda Hodge, Selectmen Stan Soby, Greg Cordova; Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, Tax Collector Tricia Coblentz, Boy Scout Colin Patchell and Mrs. Patchell, Ryan Blessing, Gabriella Farrick.

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

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

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

2.1 January 21, 2009 Regular Meeting

**Motion by:** J. Ringo

to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting as read.

**Second by:** B. Smith.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Motion by:** R. Crabb

to move Item 9.3 Budget Survey to this point in the agenda as R. Goldstein will be leaving early.

**Second by:** J. Ringo.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**9.3 Budget Survey**

R. Goldstein presented the Board with a draft of ten questions. Discussion was held on detail of the questions. It is hoped the survey will give the Board direction from citizens for what should or should not be reduced from the budget.

The Board of Finance (BOF) is planning a public forum for February 18, 2009 to be held at Bacon Academy cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. The regularly scheduled Board of Finance meeting will be cancelled. This forum will allow people to present ideas on the budget before the final numbers are presented to the public. Michael Puscas will be the facilitator for the forum.

Information about the forum will be in the First Selectman's column this week that appears in The Colchester Bulletin along with a press release and additional press releases in The Rivereast and The Reminder.

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to move Liaison Reports to this point in the agenda.

**Second by:** M. Ryan.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

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**8. LIAISON REPORTS.**

R. Goldstein stated the Board of Education (BOE) budget was presented to the BOE at the January 27, 2009 Special Meeting and a second budget review had been held with a Special Meeting on January 31, 2009

Parents were there to ask the Board to keep the middle school sports program that is being taken out of the budget as well as some of the Bacon Academy sports.

The BOE will meet again on February 10, 2009 to further review the budget before presenting it to the BOF. The State Education Cost Sharing amount that goes to the BOE is still not certain.

J. Ringo reported that two police officers are leaving for higher paying positions in a nearby town. Also noted is that the police cars are getting a lot of wear.

R. Crabb met with Mark Decker, Director of Public Works regarding the snow, transfer station and fleet budgets. The backhoe at the Transfer Station is in need of repair. He also met with S. Groghan, Librarian, about the library budget.

B. Hayn said the fire department budget shows an increase for equipment. B. Hayn is concerned with the recently vacated position of the administrative assistant.

Selectman Hodge said there were numerous applications and interviews are being set for February 13, 2009. The Fire Chief and some part-time help are trying to keep things going with the collection of ambulance fees.

R. Goldstein left the meeting at this point – 7:47 p.m.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORT.**

**3.1 Tax Collector**

T. Coblentz provided the Board with reports on delinquent tax collections that are going well. Discussion was held on the amount of people out of work and unable to pay taxes. T. Coblentz said payment plans are offered.

**3.2 Finance Department**

No report at this time.

**4. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Scout Patchell is working on his Citizenship Badge and is attending tonight's meeting as one of the requirements. Bacon Academy Senior Gabriella Farrick is here for Civics Class.

**5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA.**

No additions were requested.

**6. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT.**

**6.1 Selectmen's Agenda**

**6.1.1 Transfer Requests.**

A transfer request was presented from the Transfer Station for repair of a backhoe necessary for the Transfer Station. The transfer is within the Transfer Station budget. See attached.

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to approve the transfer of \$7,500 for repair of a backhoe for the Transfer Station contingent on BOS approval.

**Second by:** R. Crabb.

**Vote:** Unanimous by those present.

**6.1.2 First Selectman's Update.**

First Selectman Linda Hodge said the Grand Lists figures came in at approximately a 1.5% increase. The auto list is down as it is across the state.

Town vehicles are breaking down, police cars, senior bus – S. Sharpe will have a report on the

status of these vehicles.

And the snow – the snow will just not stop. Without yesterday's storm, the budget was approximately \$36,000 over.

The Firemen's, Administrators' and Police contract negotiations are settled. The Town Hall employee contract begins at the end of February.

The Fire Department has requested \$5,000 to apply to a Federal grant that will give them a \$105,000 exhaust control system. This is a health and safety issue, the system is easily adaptable to various trucks.

**Motion by:** J. Ringo

to approve the spending of \$5,000 from the Equipment subject to Board of Selectmen approval for the \$105,000 Federal grant for an exhaust control system.

**Second by:** B. Smith.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

Discussion followed on the Legal Account. Total expenditures to date are approximately \$111,000. A more detailed report will be on the next agenda.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

No correspondence was received.

**8. LIAISON REPORTS.**

See above.

**9. OLD BUSINESS.**

**9.1 Purchasing Policy Discussion and Possible Action.**

Friday is the deadline for any further comments or changes to the policy before it is typed in its final form.

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

L. Hodge reviewed the grant application that has been awarded for \$15,000 and found the Cross Alert System has been specified in the grant and only one company makes this specific product.

**Motion by:** B. Smith

to waive the bid process for the Cross Alert System.

**Second by:** R. Crabb.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**9.3 Budget Survey.**

See above.

**10. NEW BUSINESS.**

No new business.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Motion by:** J. Ringo

to adjourn.

**Second by:** M. Ryan.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

Chairman Hayn adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Clerk

Town of Colchester  
General Fund  
Budget Transfer/Additional Appropriation

Department: Transfer Station

Reason for Request: JD 710 backhoe repair - Takes two pieces to do what the 710 does - currently using the JD410 backhoe but the forks we have for it are not adequate to place/remove container covers (DEP requirement they be covered), the 410 does not have the power of the 710 so materials are not compacted as well resulting in more frequent pulls (greater cost), and the 410 cannot pull the heavy containers (bulky waste and mixed paper) when they are full so we need to have the loader there also. To have the loader there, we must transport it daily because we have no secure place to store it over night.

Reason for Available Funds: greater credits issued for metal and mixed paper through first half of year than budgeted and new ability to compact commingled cans, bottles, and plastics resulting in few pull charges - current charge/credit amounts used to predict year-end expenses - results in availability of funds for this repair work

From:	Account Number	Account Name	Amount
	13601-43212	Transfer Station - Transportation	7,500

To:	Account Number	Account Name	Amount
	13601-46390	Transfer Station - Vehicle Maintenance	7,500

Feb 4, 2009  
Date Requested

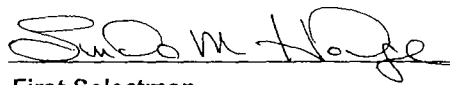
Department Director or Supervisor - Signature

Print Name Mark Decker

2/4/09  
Date Reviewed

  
Chief Financial Officer

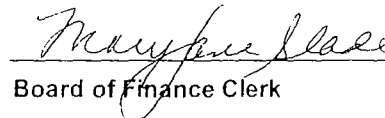
2/4/09  
Date Approved

  
First Selectman

Date Approved

Board of Selectmen Clerk

2/4/09  
Date Approved

  
Board of Finance Clerk