



Board of Finance

BOARD OF FINANCE – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 127 NORWICH AVENUE
Room #1
AUGUST 5, 2009

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2009 AUG - 7 PM 3:30
NANCY A. BRAY
Nancy A. Bray

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bruce Hayn, John Ringo, Ronald Goldstein, Ronald Crabb, Michael Ryan, Brian Smith at 8:03 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Linda Hodge, Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Fire Chief Walter Cox.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hayn called this meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 June 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

Motion by: M. Ryan

to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 Regular Meeting as read.

Second by: R. Goldstein.

Vote: Abstaining: J. Ringo (absent from meeting),
In favor: All others present. APPROVED.

2.2 July 22, 2009 Special Joint Meeting

Motion by: J. Ringo

to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2009, Special Joint Meeting as read.

Second by: R. Goldstein.

Vote: Abstaining: M. Ryan (absent from meeting).
In favor: All others present. APPROVED.

B. Smith arrived at this point in the agenda.

Due to the number of emergency personnel present to discuss the SAFER Grant, the following motion was made:

Motion by: R. Goldstein

to move Item 10 to this point in the agenda.

Second by: R. Crabb.

Vote: Unanimous.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 SAFER Grant

The SAFER Grant was submitted to the Federal Government about one year ago. It is for \$770,134 for the hiring of three full time emergency personnel. Chief Cox noted that he would like to hire two full time and two part-time employees with this grant to help support the volunteer and paid staff that are currently over extended due to the increasing number of calls.

The grant is for five years but the Town is not obligated to extend the positions beyond the five years.

Discussion and questions followed between the Board and members of the Department. At this time, the Town may receive word any day that the grant will be awarded. The Grant is on the agenda to receive approval from the Board of Finance to have the First Selectman sign the grant.

Discussion continued on the ability of the Town to pay the \$444,094 commitment over the next five years that is required to receive this grant.

Selectman Hodge stated that Chief Cox has data to support the need. Chairman Hayn stated an overall plan needs to be in place for equipment and personnel. A joint meeting may be held to further review the availability of funds.

J. Ringo left the meeting at 8:45 p.m. during this discussion.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORT

3.1 Finance Department

M. Cosgrove presented the Board with Expenditure and Revenue Reports through June 30, 2009 and through August 5, 2009.

Members of the Board will send a letter to Tax Collector Tricia Coblenz commending her and her staff for the efforts on the tax collection.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

G. Avery stated he had comments regarding the Purchasing Policy but would like to offer the comments later in the agenda.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Hayn requested the addition of discussion on the reserve and donation accounts.

Motion by: R. Crabb

to add Discussion of Reserve and Donation Accounts as Item 10.2.

Second by: B. Smith

Vote: Unanimous by those present.

6. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

6.1 Selectmen's Agenda

6.1.1 Transfer Requests - None

6.1.2 First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Hodge gave the Board a memo prepared by Gail Therian, Administrative Assistant, from Planning and Zoning dated July 31, 2009 regarding the recent fee increases. Four bids have been received for renovations to the old firehouse. The State is reviewing the bids. The Board of Selectmen will award the bid based on State approval. A comprehensive vehicle study is being completed. Mowers continue to be a problem. Vehicle repairs continue. Some vehicles have been taken off the road. A budget freeze is continuing while waiting for the State budget situation to be resolved.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

8. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports this evening.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Purchasing Policy

The final draft of the Purchasing Policy has been distributed. G. Avery sent a letter with suggested revisions. M Cosgrove noted that the policy could be modified at any time.

Motion by: M. Ryan

to approve the Purchasing Policy as presented with possible revisions as needed.

Second by: B. Smith.

Vote: Unanimous.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 SAFER Grant

As above.

10.2 Discussion of Reserve and Donation Accounts.

A list of the reserve and donation accounts was discussed. These appropriations include bond issue amounts for progress payments, appropriations made with specific projects in mind and balances from numerous projects.

Motion by: R. Crabb

that all spending requests from the capital project fund and capital reserve fund, except bonding issues as noted, need to come before the Board of Finance for approval and these accounts to be clearly identified by December 31, 2009.

Second by: B. Smith.

Vote: Unanimous.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: M. Ryan

to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: R. Crabb.

Vote: Unanimous.

Chairman Hayn adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk