

Minutes of the Finance and Advisory Board
July 13, 2006

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Meeting Called to Order at: 7:08 pm

Location: 2nd floor meeting room-Town Hall

Members In Attendance: Jon Ayres, Phil Cannon, Sandy Gerraughty, Jack L'Hommedieu, Robin O'Malley, Tim Ruh, Mike Sweat, Ruth Stewart, Reggie Tardif

Guests in Attendance: page 3 of minutes

Minutes Taken by: Robin O'Malley

Article 1: A memo from Attorney Rudolph was given to the board. He read it and emphasized certain points. He stressed that a yes vote would send a message to the students that attend Whittier that they too are important. There was much discussion as to where the money should come from. Can Whittier money come from Chapter 70 money? Can we change the motion? The board agreed to vote on article 2 then after that vote, vote on article 1. If article 2 passes then the chapter 70 money is a moot point.

Article 2 passed, so we came back to article 1.

Motion to recommend approval of article 1

Phil moved

Ruth 2nd

Discussion: An amendment was made to this motion to add by transfer from the reserve fund.

Mike moved

Sandy 2nd

Vote 9-0

So the amended motion reads: Motion to recommend approval of article 1 by transfer from the reserve fund.

Vote 8-1 (Mike)

Article 2:

General comments were made about this article:

- ◆ The cost of this special town meeting needs to be determined. It will need to be adjusted at the Special town meeting in the fall.
- ◆ The school department did receive an 8.3% increase in this year's budget over last year's budget; this increase percentage does not include the \$77,402 requested at the July 17, 2006 STM.
- ◆ Net school spending is a required **minimum** amount to be spent, not the **maximum** spent.
- ◆ Rob Hoover acknowledged that the process was not handled correctly, but that the CH 70 money still should go to the school
- ◆ Elisabeth Tollmen and Lixin Olsen both commented on article 2
- ◆ Lonnie Brennan spoke on the legislature giving Massachusetts towns more Ch 70 money and it was meant to be given to the schools.

Motion to recommend approval of article 2 as stated in the motion for the sum of \$77,402.

Mike moved

Sandy 2nd

Vote 7-2 (Phil and Jack)

Recessed at 8:25 pm to let people leave, if they want, without disrupting the meeting.

Reconvened at 8:33 pm.

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Nominations:

Motion to nominate Reggie Tardif as Chair of the board.

Ruth moved

Mike 2nd

Reggie accepted, vote 7-0

Motion to nominate Sandy Gerraughty as vice chair.

Phil moved

Mike 2nd

Sandy declined nomination

Motion to nominate Robin O'Malley as vice chair

Phil moved

Mike 2nd

Robin decline nomination

Motion to nominate Phil Cannon as vice chair

Sandy moved

Jack 2nd

Phil accepted, vote 8-0

Motion to nominate Robin O'Malley as secretary

Ruth moved

Jon 2nd

Robin declined nomination

There was much discussion over who should be secretary. No decision was reached.

Motion to table further nominations until the August meeting.

Sandy moved

Robin 2nd

Vote 9-0

Appointments need to be made to the Fire Study Committee and a Liaison to the School Committee.

Motion to nominate Jack L'Hommedieu to the Fire Study Committee

Mike moved

Phil 2nd

Jack accepted

Motion to nominate Tim Ruh to Fire Study Committee

Ruth moved

Sandy 2nd

Tim accepted

Tim would rather work as the liaison to the school committee and Jack would rather work with the Fire Study committee. Tim's nomination was withdrawn.

Vote was held on Jack's nomination, vote 8-0

Motion to nominate Tim Ruh as School Committee liaison

Sandy moved

Mike 2nd

Tim accepted, vote 8-0

There was a discussion on moving the meeting night back to Tuesday as it was for many prior years. These were the reasons given

- ◆ Meeting nights need to be consistent so that when new members join the board they now which night it will be
- ◆ Changing nights can cause conflicts with other committees/boards that some current members might have
- ◆ Many committee/boards meet on Thursdays
- ◆ Town hall is not open on Fridays and therefore if information is needed the board will need to wait until Monday
- ◆ The BOS meet Mondays, Planning Board meet Wednesdays and the School Committee meet Thursdays, with the Finance Board meeting Tuesdays it was 4 of the boards people are most concerned with and can watch on cable or attend the meetings without having to choose which meeting to attend

After discussion, the board chose to meet the 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Reggie will change the August 10th meeting to August 16th. After doing so, he will notify all members.

Mike brought up the fact that over the years the board has talked about revenue numbers, but has never looked into it. We need to be working with other departments/boards to actively address this issue.

Next meeting: Reggie will notify people

Motion to adjourn 9:00 pm

Ruth moved

Phil 2nd

Meeting adjourned

Guests at Finance and Advisory Board July 13th meeting:

Robert Rudolph, resident
William O'Malley, resident
Kathryn Ondek, resident
Sonia Mitchell, resident
Amanda Fecks, resident
Cynthia Tardif, resident
Sally Applegate, press
Elisabeth Tollmen, resident
Harry LaCortiglia, resident
Nick Bruno, resident
Anne Blythe, resident
Steve Epstein, citizen
Lisa Woodford, citizen
David Bjork, school committee
Dawn Ferrazza, resident
Paula Sexton, resident
Elaine Cacciola, resident
Julianne Burr, resident
Rob Hoover, resident
Lixin Olsen, resident
Larry Borin, superintendent
Lonnie Brennan, selectmen
J. Fitzpatrick, resident