

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL
MARCH 7, 2008
SANFORD HALL, TOWN HALL

Present: Selectmen Chairman Glenn Trindade, Selectmen Dennis Crowley, Richard Dunne, Andrew Espinosa and John Foresto, Town Accountant Barbara Durand and Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy.

4:00 p.m. – The meeting was called to order on a motion by Chairman Trindade and seconded by Mr. Crowley.

A brief discussion took place with respect to the Tachinsky Fund. Mr. Dunne again recommended that \$50,000 in Town funds be provided in the proposed FY 2009 budget in order to not impact the fund corpus.

Ms. Durand provided the Board with a summary spreadsheet outlining the Town's and School's FY 09 level service as well as program improvements budget requests.

The Board's initial review of the spreadsheet focused on a determination of the allocation of the anticipated increase of \$922,000 in State revenue. After a brief discussion, Mr. Trindade recommended that the additional revenues should be apportioned to the School and Town Departments respectively on a 70% - 30% basis.

The Board discussed at length Chairman Trindade's recommendation concerning the allocation of increased state aid. Mr. Crowley expressed concern about his belief that sufficient funds were not being allocated to the Highway budget to provide for an increase in much needed additional staff.

A motion was made by Chairman Trindade and seconded by Mr. Espinosa to allocate State aid on the recommended 70%/30% apportionment to the School and Town Departments. It was so voted. Unanimous vote.

After a brief review of the spreadsheet Mr. Trindade moved, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and it was voted to minimally provide funding to "level service" the proposed FY 09 budget. It was so voted.

The Board review of the spreadsheet then focused on the program improvement budget requests. Chairman Trindade asked the Town Administrator if Chief Vinton provided the requested memorandum updating his funding requirements for FY 2009. Ms. Kennedy indicated that the memorandum was received and signed by the Chief. Chairman Trindade speculated that perhaps the Fire Department secretarial position should be cut to half time. After a brief discussion, Chairman Trindade motioned to reduce the funding for the secretarial position to provide for 19 hours weekly. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Crowley and voted unanimously by the Board.

After a lengthy review and discussion of the spreadsheet, the following program improvement requests were added to the proposed FY 2009 budget:

DPS Operations, Tree Maintenance, \$10,664
Building Department, Add Deputy Building Commissioner, \$4,468
Fire Department, Pre-employment, Equipment, Training, Legal Ads for Six New Hires, \$29,400
Fire Department; Eliminate Full Time Secretary, (\$40,327)
Fire Department, Part Time Secretary, \$19,009
Fire Department, Stipends, \$1,550
Library, Minuteman Membership Fee, \$50,000
Master Plan Update Committee, Consulting Services, \$8,000
Master Plan Update Committee, Printing, \$2,000
Planning Department, Upgrade to Planning Coordinator, \$7,500
Police Department, Two New Police Vehicles, \$62,000
Treasure/Collector Department, Create E-Bills as a Legal Bill, \$3,000
Treasure/Collector Department, Lease a Copier, \$3,600
Treasure/Collector Department, Lease a Mail Stuffer, \$3,600
School Department, (Various – \$566,549),

Mr. Trindade moved, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and it was voted to approve the service program improvement funding requests as outlined on the spreadsheet including the Fire Department adjustments.

Mr. Trindade also stated that the approved level service and program improvement budget would be recommended to the Finance Committee based on the availability of State aid as provided for in the most recent iteration of the Cherry Sheets distributed by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Mr. Crowley expressed to the Board that certain School and Town expenditures were non-recurring and, as such, should not be included for funding in the FY 2010 budget. He also requested a School Department funding priority list of those expenditures funded with the increased FY 09 projected State aid. Chairman Trindade responded that he felt the priority list was the prerogative of the School Department.

Chairman Trindade motioned to adopt the proposed FY 09 level service and program improvement budgets, seconded by Mr. Crowley and so voted.

7:05 p.m. - The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Crowley and seconded by Mr. Foresto. It was so voted.

*approved 11/3/08