



BOARD OF FINANCE

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

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SEP 10 2008

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2008
7:00 p.m.

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: J. Philip Gallagher, Kevin Riley, William Slifkin, James Roden and Gary Regan.

J. Philip Gallagher called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by J. Philip Gallagher, to move to Item 1) Discussion with Board of Education Director of Fiscal Services - Board of Education account(s) to this point on the agenda. Vote, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

1.) Discussion with Board of Education Director of Fiscal Services - Board of Education account(s):

Theresa Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services for the Board of Education was present at tonight's meeting and presented the Board of Finance with a summary of year end closing (attached). She advised that they (the Board of Education) are scheduled to close the year with a surplus that will be returned to the Town General Fund of approximately \$20,000. She explained that the Board of Education had several favorable variances. She reported that the state had reimbursed the Board of Education at the rate originally promised for Special Education. *(She did caution that the state told them not to count on this happening again).* This allowed the Board of Education to purchase security systems at the entrance of Berry, Rockwell and Johnson Schools, noting that \$9,300 is anticipated from a grant and will be turned over to the town when received. They also purchased SMARTboards for Johnson and the High School and various textbooks. Mrs. Yonsky noted that they will be returning \$4,000 from the 460 Account as well. Also discussed were challenges for 2008-2009, including modifications required at the BHS auditorium, conversion to a new software platform of the student database, security plans, significant overtime cost and insurance

issues. William Slifkin questioned whether monies could have been used to offset the pay to participate, Mrs. Yonsky offered that they are two different fiscal years and one year couldn't be used to offset a different year. J. Philip Gallagher offered that he would have like to have seen more money turned back to offset fuel oil costs.

Minutes:

May 12, 2008: William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by Kevin Riley, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

May 23, 2008: Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by William Slifkin, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

June 11, 2008: J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Slifkin, to approve the minutes with the addition that the reductions to the town and Board of Education accounts reflect that there was a 60% on the school side and 40% on the town side, not the usual 70% (school) and 30% (town). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

July 2, 2008: J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

July 28, 2008: J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by Kevin Riley, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of salary increases for elected officials

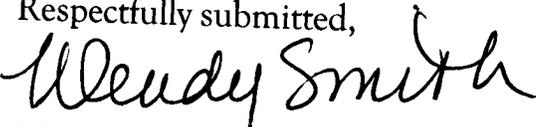
Discussion took place regarding salary increases for the First Selectman and Town Clerk; the only two full time positions which did not get a salary increase. Board of Finance members discussed that during budget deliberation time, it was speculated that the Board of Education administrators were not going to receive raises, when in fact, they actually did. Board of Finance members commented that perhaps they were too hasty when they reduced the salary increases for the elected officials.

William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to grant a 2.5% salary increase effective October 1, 2008 for the First Selectman and the Town Clerk. Discussion ensued. While all Board of Finance members agreed that the salaries for these positions should be increased, Kevin Riley and Gary Regan raised the concern that the Board of Finance could be criticized for increasing the salaries after the budget was approved.

Consensus was that these positions need to be increased so as not to fall behind. William Slifkin offered that the Board of Education administrators received increases and the two full time officials on the town side deserve increases and that he wouldn't mind the criticism.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to table the motion to the next meeting. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, Kevin Riley, Gary Regan and James Roden. Voting against the motion: William Slifkin. Motion to table passed.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by Kevin Riley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary