



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2009

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman, William Britt, William Slifkin, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: J. Philip Gallagher called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Slifkin, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 5 - Legislative Update. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Comments: None

Minutes of June 8, 2009: William Britt made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. William Slifkin abstained from the vote.

Minutes of June 22, 2009: J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. William Slifkin abstained from the vote.

New Business

- 1.) Discussion of Board of Education Transfers/Account

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It had been noted that the Board of Education has agreed to turn back to the Town General Fund, \$142,000 which represents the Board of Education share (65%) of the budget (FY 2008-2009) shortfall of \$380,000 less matching funds for the security grant at the High School and Middle School. A question rose regarding the actual shortfall number, whether it is \$380,000 less \$142,000 (from Board of Education) or if the \$380,000 is the actual amount. The Comptroller will be asked to clarify the amount.

2.) Update on FY 2008-2009 Budget Shortfall

Barry Curina, Comptroller had provided an update and noted that the revenue shortfall for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is still estimated to be approximately \$380,000. He advised that they are still working to close the expenditure side, it does appear that there will be sufficient under expended account balances to accommodate the projected shortfall. He reported that tax collections stabilized and we ended the year with a collection rate of 98.7. The shortfall was primarily the result of lower than expected revenue from building permits, conveyance taxes, recording fees and interest on investments.

3.) Consideration of cost saving/consolidation of departmental purchasing

Board of Finance members discussed establishing a subcommittee to meet and explore possible cost savings; the goal is to determine whether any savings could be realized by departments purchasing goods/services together. It was noted, for example, that the town locked in at a much more favorable rate for fuel purchases than the Board of Education. Also mentioned were copiers as it was noted that many departments have their own; it was thought that if these were leased equipment, perhaps savings could be realized with one vendor.

William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to establish a sub-committee of the Board of Finance to explore possibilities for potential cost savings. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. J. Philip Gallagher appointed William Slifkin, James Roden and Gary Regan to the newly formed sub-committee.

4.) Report from Board of Finance representative - Board of Education negotiations:

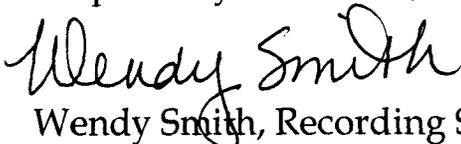
James Roden had attended the first meeting and reported that it was held in Executive Session and therefore, details could not be discussed. It was noted that by state statute, the Board of Education has to meet and confer with the Board of Finance regarding negotiations. Several dates have been set for negotiations, and various members of the Board of Finance will attend different sessions.

5.) Legislative Update:

Discussion took place regarding recent legislative action which would allow municipalities to reduce their adopted budgeted appropriations up to the amount of funding boards of education will receive directly from the stabilization portion of the federal stimulus act (ARRA). J. Philip Gallagher advised that he had spoken with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and they advised that any action must wait until Connecticut has adopted its budget. J. Philip Gallagher will follow up and report back to the Board of Finance at its next meeting.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, William Britt made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary