Town of Seymour Board of Finance Minutes

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 @ 7:00 PM Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Mark Thompson, Bill Paecht, Bill Sawicki, Peter Jezierny, Len Greene, Kristen

Harmeling, Michelle Walsh.

Others present: First Selectman Paul Roy, Doug Thomas, Tony Caserta, Frank Loda, Michael

Breault, Rick Belden, Kimberly Welch and John Stelma

Item #1 – Call meeting to order.

The Chairman, Mark Thompson, opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Item #3 – Seating of Alternates

No alternates were seated

Item #4 – Public Comment

No comments from the public.

Item #5 – Remarks from the Chair

Budget Development Process

Motion to table discussion of the Budget Development Process until the September Board of Finance Meeting

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht

Motion was withdrawn by Peter Jezierny and Bill Paecht withdrew his second

New Motion to hold a special meeting of the Board of Finance during the second or third week of September 2010 for purposes of discussing the budget development process.

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht

Yes: 7 No: 0 O – Abstain

Education Job Grant

Rick Belden, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance for the Seymour Board of Education, gave an update on the Education Job Grant, which is additional funding that will be provided by the federal government to the state to be used for jobs retention and creation. It is estimated in excess of \$500,000 will be given to the Board of Education. The Board of Education has yet to be fully informed by the state as to what the guidelines are for use of the funds. Mr. Belden reported that the money should be received within the next few weeks.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the funds be used for 2011-2012 budget due to the rise in health care costs and teacher salary increases. Mr. Roy concurred, however, the BOE will have to wait and see what the guidelines are from the state education department. Mr. Belden stated that it was premature to determine how the monies can be used.

Mr. Belden also gave an update on the closeout school building projects. He provided the board with a timeline for gathering and submitting the paperwork to the state education department. Mr. Belden suggested that it might be beneficial to hire a third party to review the closeout package. It is estimated that it would cost \$2,000.00 to hire an outside consultant for this purpose. The question was raised who would pay the consultant's fee – the BOE or the town for which Mr. Belden did not have an answer.

Item #6 - Comments from the First Selectman

First Selectman, Paul Roy stated that he was looking forward to a joint meeting with the BOS, BOF, and BOE to plan for the next budget.

Mr. Roy provided the BOF with an updated list of grants.

Mr. Roy stated that as the result of a continued favorable bond rating and lower interest rates, the town would save approximately \$740,000 over the next twenty years on the debt service cost as a result of refinancing its long term debt.

Item #7 - Report from the Finance Director

Finance Director, Doug Thomas stated the auditor was making progress on the 2009-2010 financial report and that it should be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Thomas also reported that he was in the process of closing out the 2009-2010 fiscal year reports.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson, Mr. Thomas indicated he has not yet had an opportunity to investigate potential cost savings to the town by moving all departments to Verizon for cell phone service.

Item #8 - Transfer Requests

Motion to approve Control 25 to transfer funds from the Fire Marshall department, Salary regular employee account - \$3,760.00, Advertising account - \$2,501.68, Regular employees account - \$3,000.00 to Water Fire Hydrants in the amount of \$9,261.68

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht

Yes: 7 No: 0 0 – Abstain

Motion to approve Control 26 to transfer funds from the Police Health Insurance account - \$29,145.00 to various departments' health insurance accounts: Selectman's Office - \$675.00, Finance Office - \$2,500.00, Tax Collector - \$70.00, Assessors - \$5,000.00, Retirees - \$12,100.00, Fire Marshall - \$450.00, Services to Elderly - \$460.00, Recreation - \$40.00, Library - \$7,850.00.

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Len Greene

Yes: 7 No: 0 0 - Abstain

Motion to approve Control 27 to transfer funds from the Conservation Aquifer Protection account - \$275.02 to Social Security Blight Officer account - \$275.02

Yes: 7 No: 0 0-Abstain

Motion to approve Control 28 to transfer funds from the Town Buildings Department sewer fees account - \$2,500.00 and postage rental account - \$453.44 to the Town Buildings Repairs and Maintenance account - \$2,953.44

Motion: Len Greene Second: Michelle Walsh

Motion withdrawn: Len Greene Second: Michelle Walsh

New Motion to table this transfer until copies of all payments made to Oatley, with corresponding invoices and a copy of the contract for the 2009-2010 budget year. Documentation shall be obtained within the next two weeks and shared with the BOF.

Motion: Len Greene Second: Michelle Walsh

Yes: 7 No: 0 0-Abstain

Motion to approve Control 29 to transfer funds from the Town Counsel Purchased Services account - \$25,000.00 to the Town Counsel Legal Settlements account - \$25,000.00.

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Bill Paecht

Yes: 6 No: 0 1-Abstain – Michelle Walsh

Item #9 - Correspondence

None

Item #10 - Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2010 BOF meeting with the correction of Kimberly Welch as an attendee.

Motion: Len Greene Second: Bill Paecht

Yes: 7 No: 0 0-Abstain

Item # 11 - Other Business

Michelle Walsh asked for an update on the money transfer from the WPCA. Mr. Roy indicated that he was unable to attend that last meeting of the WPCA because it had moved to the first Monday of the month. Mr. Roy said he plans to attend the WPCA meeting on Sept. 7, 2010 and he encouraged any member from the BOF to join him.

Bill Sawicki stressed that the town needs to get aggressive with the WPCA. A discussion followed regarding who has check signing authority for the WPCA. Tony Caserta responded the First Selectman has authorization to sign checks for the WPCA.

Mark Thompson asked Mr. Roy for an update on the policy concerning the handling of FOI requests. Mr. Roy responded town counsel is working on the policy and the Board of Finance will have it by the next meeting.

Item # 12 - Adjournment

| Motion to adjourn | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Motion: Len Greene | Second: Bill Sawich |
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Yes: 7 No: 0 0 – Abstain

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm

Submitted by:

Kelly Breault Recording Secretary