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Town of Seymour

Board of Finance

Minutes

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Seymour Middle School Library Media Center

Members present: Mark Thompson, William Pucci, William Sawicki, Peter Jezierny, Leonard Greene, V. Victor Hornesky, [redacted], [redacted], Michelle Walsh, and Jay Hatfield

Item #1 - Call Meeting to Order
The Chairman, Mark Thompson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item #2 - Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the pledge of allegiance

Item #3 - Seating of Alternate
~~No alternates~~ Michelle Walsh was seated for Nancy Onofrio

Item # 4 - Public Comment

Carol Slater, the head Librarian, noted the Library sponsored over 100 programs for the public with more than 5100 people attended. Approximately 70 percent of the Seymour residents are holders of library cards. The Library currently has 6 full time staff and 3 payees. The average staff for a library the size of Seymour is 10.

Marianne Masullo, the Superintendent of Seymour Public Schools, indicated Mr Richard Belden had proposed a minimum budget for the Board of Education.

Richard Belden, the Assistant Superintendent, distributed a minimum budget as required by the Board of Education. Mr Belden also explained the "minimum budget requirement" as outlined by the State Education Department. The MBR is the threshold below which the state will take away two dollars for every dollar not funded by the town. Mr Belden fielded several questions from the Board and the public concerning the MBR

Ingrid Conlon encouraged the Board to give education a high priority and she wanted more residents to vote during the budget referendum.

Sandy Barclay said the town leaders have always been problem solvers and she encouraged the Board to be creative.

Item #5 -
Remarks from the Chairman

The second referendum which was rejected by the voters on May 4th represented approximately $50.3 million or a 2.62 percent increase over the 2009-10 budget. Had the proposed budget passed, the mill rate would have increased by 1.75.

Mr Thompson and other people questioned what would happen should a budget not be adopted by June 15. Mr Thompson indicated he would work with the First Selectman and Town Counsel to get an answer to the question.

The First Selectman, Mr Paul Ray, expressed the opinion the Board of Education should receive a $200,000 increase over the 2009 budgeted amount.

The Board of Finance reiterated its position that it did not want to use any more monies from fund balance

Item #6 - Take action on 2010/2011 Budget
Motion to reduce the BOE by $90,682 for a zero percent increase over the 2009 budgeted amount.

Motion: Jen Greene Second: Bill Bewick
Vote: 6 yes (Mal Thompson, Bill Padelt, Bill Savicki, Michelle Walsh, Peter Pezzieny and Jen Greene)
No: 1 - Kristen Hunneling
Abstain: 0

A discussion ensued concerning the use of furlough days. The Finance Director estimated the cost savings per day per town employees only was approximately $26,000 The Finance Director also expressed that a 2 percent reduction in the salary line item for the town employees to approximately $104,000. The Board decided to let the First Selectman decide how to implement a 2 percent reduction in the salary line item accounts.

The Board discussed reducing the library book account by $2500, the library page account by $4,000, the contingency labor account by $15,000, and the police uniform salary account by $7,000. The Board also discussed increasing the property tax

account by $15,000 and the supplemental account by $15,000.

Motion to reduce the municipal budget by $258,586 for a 1.5 percent increase over the 2009 budgeted amount.
Motion: Bill Jaecht Second: Michelle Welch
Vote: 5 - Yes (Matt Thorpe, Bill Jaecht, Bill Sawicki, Michelle Welch, and Peter Jezierny)
2 - No (Len Greene and Kristen Hamerling)

The new proposed budget to go to the voters on May 25 totals to $9,371,280 representing 0.63 percent increase over the 2009 budgeted amount or .098 increase to mill rate.

A question was posed to the Finance Director concerning the impact with the Tri-Town Plaza legal settlement agreement would have on the budget. Ms Stone responded a payment of approximately $4,000 would have to made from the 2010 budget, possibly from the legal settlements line item. The question was also raised about the reduction on the grand list and Board would like to know the amount.

Item # 7 - Adjournment

A motion was seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30pm

Submitted by

Mark Hemp
Chairman