

MINUTES
Board of Finance
Tuesday, November 24, 2009 @ 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Trisha Danka, Bill Paecht, Peter Jezierny, Michele Pavlik, Jim Simpson, Nancy Onofrio, and Len Greene, Jr.

Not present: Mark Thompson.

Others present: Finance Director Doug Thomas, First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, Michelle Walsh, Frank Loda, and Paul Roy.

ITEM # 1 – Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Trisha Danka at 7:00PM.

ITEM # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 – Seating of Alternates.

Motion to seat Alternate Board of Finance member Len Greene, Jr. to replace regular member Mark Thompson.

Motion: Peter Jezierny

Second: Nancy Onofrio

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 4 – Public Comment.

Trisha Danka: Would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work on the Board of Finance in the past 4 years and that she is glad that she worked with such a great group of people. She hopes that the next group will work as good together and she wishes them luck in the future. She also offers her help with any advice or questions that anyone might have. She has to leave due to a family matter.

Trisha Danka steps down as Chairman at 7:04PM and Vice Chairman Bill Paecht steps up as Chairman.

ITEM # 5 - First Selectman's Comments.

Robert J. Koskelowski, First Selectman: States that Finance Director Doug Thomas has reported that the audit report should be done soon and the past number of years working with the Board of Finance has gone very well. States that all departments came in under budget last year. He hopes that the new Board of Finance does well and hopes that they look at the budget ahead of time and remember the economy and residents cannot afford a tax increase. He wishes everyone good luck and does not want the Memorial Day Parade cut from the budget.

Bill Paecht: Would like to thank First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski for all of his years of service and all of the help he has given the Board of Finance over the years.

ITEM # 6 – Transfers.

Motion to approve Control # 2 Transfer for the Tax Collector for \$44,000.00 from Contingency acct # 410-1950-530-872 into Refunds Prior Years acct # 410-1515-455-800 to cover prior year tax refunds resulted from prior year assessment audits agreed to between the Assessor and the assessed company. Prior year refunds are paid out of the budget and have varied in amounts. In fiscal year 2008, \$10,000 in refunds were paid, fiscal 2009 \$5,000 and current year \$5,350 plus \$43,444.14.

Motion: Nancy Onofrio **Second: Len Greene, Jr.**
Vote: 6-Yes **0-No** **0-Abstain** **0-Disqualify**

Motion to approve Control # 3 Transfer for Contributions for \$250.00 from Contingency acct # 410-1950-530-872 into Founders Day acct # 410-1950-530-877. Transfer is a contribution to the Founders Day Committee, Selectman requested transfer.

Motion: Michele Pavlik **Second: Len Greene, Jr.**
Vote: 0-Yes **5-No (Michele Pavlik, Bill Paecht, Peter Jezierny, Jim Simpson, Len Greene, Jr.)**
1-Abstain (Nancy Onofrio) **0-Disqualify**

Motion failed.

Board members would like to see this put in the budget next year.

ITEM # 7 – Correspondence.

None.

ITEM # 8 – Approval of Minutes from Meeting on 10/27/09.

Motion to approve minutes from Board of Finance meeting on 10/27/09.

Motion: Peter Jezierny **Second: Nancy Onofrio**
Vote: 6-Yes **0-No** **0-Abstain** **0-Disqualify**

ITEM # 9 – Approve 2010 Board of Finance Meeting Schedule.

Motion to approve the following dates to be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Norma Drummer Room in the Seymour Town Hall.

January 26, 2010

February 23, 2010

March 23, 2010

April 27, 2010

May 25, 2010

June 22, 2010

July 27, 2010

August 24, 2010

September 28, 2010

October 26, 2010

November 23, 2010

December 28, 2010

Motion: Peter Jezierny **Second: Michele Pavlik**
Vote: 6-Yes **0-No** **0-Abstain** **0-Disqualify**

ITEM # 10 – Financial Reports.

Doug Thomas Finance Director: The auditor is finished and is working on the management letter and audit report. They are just waiting on the GASB45 and the audit should be done by Christmas. States that the Treasurer, Recreation and Public Works Foreman line items may be short.

Michele Pavlik: Asks about the stipend that was to be given to the Assistant Finance Director for doing the Treasurer's work. This was presented during the last budget season.

Robert J. Koskelowski, First Selectman: The Assistant Finance Director was supposed to take over the Treasurer's responsibilities, which did not happen. The Assistant Finance Director already does a lot of the duties of the Treasurer and he will take over for the remainder of the budget year with any of the money that is left in the line item. If not then either a small transfer out of contingency acct that will have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance or the Assistant Finance Director will have to wait until July 1, 2010.

There were no Financial Reports for the 2009/2010 budget season included in the packet. Finance Director will have them forwarded to the Board members.

ITEM # 11 – Other Business.

Motion to add extension of First Selectman's Life Insurance to the Agenda.

Motion: Michele Pavlik

Second: Jim Simpson

Vote: 2-Yes (Michele Pavlik, Jim Simpson)

4-No (Nancy Onofrio, Len Greene, Jr., Bill Paecht,

Peter Jezierny)

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion Failed.

ITEM # 12 – Public Comment.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: States that Michele Pavlik should state her comments concerning the First Selectman's request to extend his Life Insurance under public comment. No debate just comments.

Michele Pavlik, 5 Emma Street: States the following concerns that she has concerning the proposed extension of the life insurance for the outgoing First Selectman, per 11/17/09 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes in which the First Selectman requested a continuation of life insurance benefit for a reduced policy (\$50,000).

Many people cannot afford health and life insurance, especially during these tough economic times. If the Town's insurance carrier is willing to extend health and/or life insurance benefits to outgoing employees, including a pricing advantage if the employee remains part of the Town's group policy, this effort should be embraced by Town officials if it means someone can keep their insurance.

1. Implement a town policy that defines eligibility criteria for extension of health and life insurance benefits for outgoing employees of the town (or a town-affiliated entity that receives funding in the approved budget, e.g. Seymour Ambulance Association, Seymour Housing Authority).

Such a policy would provide a clear basis for BOS action to extend benefits to outgoing employees and send a positive message to town employees and taxpayers.

2. Charge a nominal processing fee to be paid by the former employee.

Such a fee would ensure "zero" cost to the taxpayers for administrative costs associated with maintaining the former employee on the Town's insurance policy.

3. Execute a signed legal agreement between the Town and outgoing employee that includes:

- insurance carrier documentation detailing the policy coverage and costs
- insurance carrier documentation confirming that claims paid on behalf of former employees will not cause the Town's rates to increase

- responsibilities and liabilities for all parties involved in the financial arrangement

Such an agreement would help protect the Town and the former employee:

- The Town's group policy rates and coverage for current employees would not be negatively impacted by claims paid on behalf of former employees.
- The former employee should receive all benefits they are entitled to under the policy as long as the payments are made as agreed and any other stipulations of the legal agreement and policy are met by both the former employee and the Town (e.g., if the town fails to make or is late on a payment, the former employee's coverage should not be impacted).

Robert J. Koskelowski: States that there are at least three other employees that have retired many years ago that receive insurance through the Town per Union Contract. He also states that the Ambulance Corps. and the Housing Authority employees, who do not work for the Town of Seymour, also benefit from the Town's Group Insurance Plan. He states that the Board of Selectmen took positive action on this and will make up the terms for their next meeting.

Michele Pavlik, 5 Emma Street: She recently heard information about this issue that is contradictory to the Board of Selectmen Minutes and is trying to go on the best information that is available. She still has many concerns on this issue.

Michelle Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Feels that concerns are a good thing except when it takes time away from the Finance Department to find out the administrative fees for this.

Bill Paecht: Thanks Jim Simpson and Michele Pavlik for their years of service.

ITEM # 13 – Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:42PM.

Motion: Peter Jezierny

Second: Len Greene, Jr.

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

**Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary**

**Trisha Danka,
Chairman**