

MINUTES
Board of Finance
Tuesday, August 25, 2009 @ 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Trisha Danka, Peter Jezierny, Michele Pavlik, Jim Simpson, Nancy Onofrio, Mark Thompson, and Leonard Greene, Jr.

Others present: Finance Director Doug Thomas, Assistant Finance Director Tony Caserta, First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski (7:17PM), Police Chief Michael Metzler, and Lucy McConologue.

Not present: Bill Paecht.

ITEM # 1 – Call meeting to order.

Chairman Trisha Danka opens the meeting at 7:04PM.

ITEM # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 – Seating of Alternates.

Motion to seat Alternate member Leonard Greene, Jr.

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Nancy Onofrio

Vote: 6-Yes (Trisha Danka, Peter Jezierny, Nancy Onofrio, Michele Pavlik, Jim Simpson, Mark Thompson) 0-No 1-Abstain (Leonard Greene, Jr.) 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 4 – Public Comment.

None.

ITEM # 5 – First Selectman's Comments.

None.

ITEM # 6 – Transfers.

Chief Michael Metzler and Police Commissioner Lucy McConologue are present to discuss transfer control # 22 that was tabled at the last Board of Finance meeting on July 28, 2009 due to lack of backup information, which was brought and given to the Board members.

Motion to approve Control # 22 from the Police Department for \$23,800.00 from Education Meetings & Seminars acct # 1-001-420-2100-535-350 and into Machinery & Equipment – Cars acct # 1-001-420-2100-535-745 for the purchase of a new police vehicle.

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Jim Simpson

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to approve Control # 1 transfer for Finance Department, Library, Building Inspector, Wetlands Enforcement, and Zoning Enforcement for \$7,263.00 from Contingency acct # 410-1950-530-872 into Finance Director acct # 410-1512-450-101 for \$2,920.00 and into Head Librarian acct # 450-5500-640-101 for \$1,686.00 and into Building Inspector acct # 420-2400-565-101 \$1,073.00 and into Assistant Building Inspector acct # 420-2400-565-110 for \$784.00 and into Wetlands Enforcement Officer acct # 410-1910-490-101 for \$300.00 and into Zoning Enforcement Officer acct # 410-1110-410-110 for \$500.00 to transfer for non union salary increases, per Selectmen Minutes in April 2009.

Motion: Michele Pavlik

Second: Mark Thompson

Discussion:

Trisha Danka – Very disappointed that these salary increases were forgotten and feels that there needs to be a system in place so this does not happen again.

Doug Thomas – This was overlooked due to a timing issue because it was voted on right before the budget vote.

Peter Jezierny – Feels that the percentage increase does not equal the \$300.00 in the Wetlands Enforcement Officer line item.

Michele Pavlik – Would like to see a copy of the budget to determine if these items were budgeted for and would like to verify this information before any action is taken.

Robert J. Koskelowski – States that it was an error by the Finance Director who did not add the non-union salary increases into the final budget. This transfer is exactly what it is supposed to be for the non-union salary increases.

Motion to table this item until a copy of the budget is brought to the Board members for review.

Motion: Leonard Greene, Jr.

Second: Michele Pavlik

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

First Selectman's Comments:

- The Town of Seymour's Bond Rating has been raised to AA-, which is the highest rating that the Town has ever gotten. The Town borrowed 5.3 million dollars last Thursday in which 2.6 million dollars is for the Chatfield-LoPresti project and the rest is for the remainder of the High School and Middle School projects, which are reimbursable. This has been borrowed at a 1% interest rate. No more money will be borrowed until the State reimbursement rate is set. Also, there is a lot of economic development going on in Town at this time, there is a strip mall going in on Rte 34 at the old Actors Colony site, a car wash off of Rte 67, a new CVS, and a new Walgreens. He also states that even though the present locations of CVS and Walgreens will be vacant, the taxes will still be collected on the property. Has requested that the other Board of Selectmen members try to deal with the owner of the Tri-town Plaza to try to get it filled.
- Mark Thompson: Commends the current administration, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the previous administration for a great job on the Town's great bond rating.

Motion to go back in order to transfers, item # 6, Control # 1.

Motion: Leonard Greene, Jr.

Second: Michele Pavlik

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion to table transfers until all Board Members get to review budget.

Motion: Mark Thompson

Second: Nancy Onofrio

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 7 – Correspondence.

- Letter from Mike Gargano, Pop Warner requesting budgeted money from the Town.
- Standard & Poor's Rating Report.
- Appointment for Len Greene, Jr. as a Board of Finance Alternate.
- July 1st list of Purchase Orders.

- Letter concerning Chatfield LoPresti reimbursable startup costs.
- Memo listing Katharine Matthies Grants awarded to the Town of Seymour to date.

Motion to go back to transfers, item # 6, Control # 1.

Motion: Leonard Greene, Jr.

Second: Mark Thompson

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Continue discussion concerning, Control # 1:

Michele Pavlik: States that she is uncomfortable with this transfer and feels that the salary increases for the non-union employees were not put in the budget. She remembers specifically that this was not done. She states that the Board was told during the budget process that there was not going to be any salary increases for non-union employees. She feels that this transfer is not fair to the residents who voted for a specific budget when these increases were not in it, but is not judging whether or not these employees deserved an increase. She only believes it is deceptive and unfair coming after the budget has been approved by the voters.

Robert J. Koskelowski: There was never a specific amount put into the budget because due to union contract negotiations the Town did not know what to put in at that time. He also states that it was clerical error and that it is not fair to the non-union employees to not get raises when the union employees are getting theirs. He feels that there is money in the contingency account for errors like this.

Mark Thompson: Would like to know if the funds were put into contingency specifically for non-union salary increases.

Robert J. Koskelowski: The contingency fund is set up for all unforeseen expenses. This was not noticed and this is also done every year.

Trisha Danka: Would like to know why the Board of Finance is approving raises when they are only there to approve the funds and it is solely the Board of Selectmen's responsibility to approve salary adjustments. She again states that she is disappointed in the lack of procedures to make sure the Board of Finance is made aware of such things during budget season and not afterwards, and would like the Finance Director to develop written processes and procedures to address.

Robert J. Koskelowski: States that he had to wait for the union's answers on whether or not they were going to give back before they could decide if they were putting in for the non-union increases.

Trisha Danka: States a decision on such salaries should be made independently from what the union decides based on both personal merit and economic ability of the Town.

Michele Pavlik: Feels that this was done on purpose and was not an oversight or error. She is opposed to this transfer.

Vote: 5-Yes (Trisha Danka, Mark Thompson, Nancy Onofrio, Leonard Greene, Jr., Jim Simpson)

1-No (Michele Pavlik)

1-Abstain (Peter Jezierny)

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 8 – Approval of Minutes from meeting on 7/28/09.

Motion to approve minutes from Board of Finance meeting on 7/28/09.

Motion: Peter Jezierny Second: Michele Pavlik

Michele points out that on page 1 of the minutes on the second to last paragraph it should state the word number in place of the word name.

Motion to approve minutes with corrections.

Vote: 4-Yes (Michele Pavlik, Peter Jezierny, Nancy Onofrio, Mark Thompson) 0-No

3-Abstain (Trisha Danka, Jim Simpson, Leonard Greene, Jr.) 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 9 – Financial Reports.

Doug Thomas: The Town is getting ready for the audit in the beginning of September and the Board of Education toward the middle of September on approximately the 21st. They are working on all of the reconciliations from year end and GASB45.

The Financials have not changed since last month. There aren't any items that he is worried about so far in this budget season. Board members state that some line items seem high so far, for example the Fire Marshal supplies account. Doug Thomas states that he uses a lot of his money in the beginning of the year, but he will speak to the Fire Marshal about that.

The Board members also have concerns over the sick pay being low and Doug Thomas states that the payroll clerk is working on updating that at this time.

ITEM # 10 – Other Business.

None.

ITEM # 11 – Public Comment.

None.

ITEM # 12 – Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:13PM.

Motion: Peter Jezierny

Vote: 7-Yes

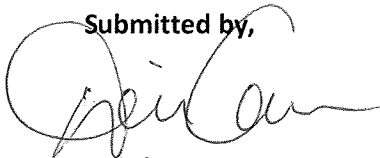
0-No

Second: Mark Thompson

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Submitted by,



Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

VIA EMAIL

Trisha Danka,
Chairman