

MINUTES
Board of Finance
Tuesday, April 28, 2009 @ 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Trisha Danka, Bill Paecht, Mark Thompson, Nancy Onofrio, and Peter Jezierny.

Not present: Michele Pavlik and Jim Simpson.

Others present: First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, Finance Director Doug Thomas, Assistant Finance Director Tony Caserta, Paul Wetowitz, Frank Loda, and Al Yagovane.

ITEM # 1 – Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trisha Danka at 7:11PM.

ITEM # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 – Seating of Alternates.

None.

ITEM # 4 – Public Comment.

None.

ITEM # 5 – First Selectman's Comment.

The First Selectman thanks the Board of Finance for all of their hard work and states that their reward was having the budget pass at the first vote.

ITEM # 6 – Transfers.

Motion to approve Control # 16 transfer for the Fire Marshal for \$2,500.00 from Salary Regular Employees acct # 1-001-420-2230-560-110 into Repairs and Maintenance acct # 1-001-420-2230-560-430 inter-department transfer. This is for the purpose of transferring the emergency lights, controls and two-way radios from the existing Assistant Fire Marshal GMC pickup into the Selectman's Office Ford Explorer due to the Town Building's custodians needing a newer pickup truck.

Motion: Bill Paecht

Second: Peter Jezierny

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Motion to approve Control # 18 transfer for the Ambulance Corp. for \$1,159.00 from EMSOC Board secretary fees acct # 1-001-420-2153-545-125 for \$260.00 and from Sewer Fees acct # 1-001-420-2153-545-412 for \$72.00 and from Heating Fuel acct # 1-001-420-2153-545-624 for \$827.00 into Electricity acct # 1-001-420-2153-545-622 for \$1,159.00. This is needed to cover the electricity bills until the end of the budget year.

Motion: Bill Paecht

Second: Mark Thompson

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 7 – Correspondence.

- Letter dated April 8, 2009 to the Board of Finance from the First Selectman concerning the Emergency Transfers (per Charter, Chapter 12, Section 12.4(d), Emergency Appropriations)

that were acted on by the Board of Selectmen at their April 7, 2009 meeting. These transfers were already approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance in February and March 2009, but were redone and re-classified as Emergency Transfers.

Trisha Danka: Has several questions regarding what is classified as an emergency transfer, did the Board of Selectmen declare a "State of Emergency", and why wasn't there a Town Meeting since the transfers were over \$50,000 and why didn't the Finance Department notify the Board of Finance of that fact. She also states that she read the section in the Charter and is still not clear on the meaning of an emergency transfer. She would also like to know if the Town Attorney has given the legal opinion that she had requested yesterday, April 27, 2009.

Robert J. Koskelowski: The First Selectman states that the Board of Selectmen did declare that these were Emergency Transfers due to the severity of the requests. These transfers were done during the winter months, which there were more than double the amount of snow storms as last year. The Town ran out of snow plowing supplies, such as salt and sand due to the amount of storms, they also had to pay personnel to plow the roads, they felt that it was also an emergency situation when the Town gas pumps ran out of gas, which meant that emergency service vehicles would not be able to run. He explains that although these transfers had been approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance in February and March 2009, they were done improperly and needed to be reclassified, which was done at the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 7, 2009. He states that the department head did not notify the Finance Department until he was out of funds. He also felt that there was no need to have the Town Counsel give a legal opinion when the Charter is clear on the meaning of an Emergency Transfer.

Trisha Danka: Would like the Finance Department to notify the Board of Finance before the funds are short and also when transfers go over the \$50,000.00 mark.

- Copy of a letter that the First Selectman wrote to Governor Rell dated March 31, 2009 concerning the State budget.
- Copy of a memo to George Temple, Town Counsel from the First Selectman concerning the Architect and Construction Manager Contracts for the Chatfield LoPresti School Project dated 4/22/09.
- Copy of a letter to Donald Smith, Co-Chairman of the Chatfield LoPresti Committee from the First Selectman concerning the Architect and Construction Manager Contracts dated 4/22/09.
- Copy of a memo to Maryanne Mascolo, Superintendent from the First Selectman concerning the surplus equipment from the machine shop being sold for \$28,000 and the use of the funds dated 4/22/09.
- Copy of letter to Maryanne Mascolo, Superintendent from the First Selectman concerning the \$261,740.00 shortfall in this year's budget from the Board of Education and requesting a response on whether they will be able to make up any of those funds dated 4/1/09. (A response, not attached, was received from the Superintendents office that stated they would be able to give back approximately \$1,300.00.)
- Copy of a memo from the Economic Development Commission expressing their disappointment in the Town not filling the Economic Development Director position dated 4/8/09.
- A copy of the Seymour Police Department Annual Report.

ITEM # 8 – Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting on 4/14/09.

Motion to approve minutes from Special Board of Finance Meeting on 4/14/09.

Motion: Bill Paecht **Second: Mark Thompson**
Vote: 5-Yes **0-No** **0-Abstain** **0-Disqualify**

ITEM # 9 – Approval of Minutes from Annual Budget Hearing on 4/8/09.

Motion to approve minutes from the Annual Budget Hearing on 4/8/09.

Motion: Peter Jezierny	Second: Nancy Onofrio
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 10 – Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting on 3/31/09.

Motion to approve minutes from Special Board of Finance Meeting on 3/31/09.

Motion: Mark Thompson **Second: Bill Paecht**
Vote: 5-Yes **0-No** **0-Abstain** **0-Disqualify**

ITEM # 11 – Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on 3/24/09.

Motion to approve minutes from regular Board of Finance Meeting on 3/24/09.

Motion: Nancy Onofrio	Second: Mark Thompson
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No	0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

ITEM # 12 – Financial Reports.

Doug Thomas, Finance Director: States that there will be more transfers at the next meeting for Town Buildings, Police Department, and Dog Warden, which will all be short in their oil accounts. Some of the funds will be taken out of Contingency, Registrar of Voters, and the Library books account. There may be some other inter-department transfers also coming up that must be approved by the departments Boards.

The Town is applying for a number of grants for Energy Efficiency. The Katharine Matthies Foundation Grants will be going out this week and are being reviewed by two of the Selectmen. There will also be no further bills from O&G for the work on Pearl Street.

Mark Thompson: Asks why there is an \$8,000,000 short fall on the Income Report.

Doug Thomas: Explains that there are ECS Funds that have not come in yet and the Sewer Assessments do not go out until next month. He also states that the building permits have picked up and the income should be in by June.

ITEM # 13 – Other Business.

#13a – Discussion and take action on 2009/2010 budget if needed.

Motion that the Grand total Budget Income for 2009/2010 is approved for \$49,060,094.

Motion: Peter Jezierny
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

Second: Bill Paecht
0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion that the Grand total Budget Expenses for 2009/2010 is approved for \$49,060,094.

Motion: Peter Jezierny		Second: Mark Thompson	
Vote: 5-Yes	0-No	0-Abstain	0-Disqualify

Motion that the document titled Town of Seymour, fiscal year 2009/2010 Budget consisting of 35 (thirty five) pages be approved as the Town's Budget document.

Motion: Bill Paecht **Second:** Mark Thompson
Vote: 5-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualify

Motion to set the Mill Rate for 2009/2010 Budget at 25.80.

Motion: Bill Paecht

Second: Peter Jezierny

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

ITEM # 14 – Public Comment.

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: Expresses his disappointment that the Town Counsel did not give a legal opinion on the Emergency Transfers and states that he feels that the Auditor would need one. He states although he has been critical of Town Counsel payments, he feels that this was necessary. He reads part of the Charter section 12.4(d) and feels that the Emergency Transfers were done improperly. He suggests that the Board of Finance officially request a legal opinion for their own protection. He states that \$126,000 in transfers did not go through the proper process.

Motion to go back to Emergency Transfer on the Agenda.

Motion: Nancy Onofrio

Second: Mark Thompson

Vote: 3-Yes (Nancy Onofrio, Mark Thompson, Trisha Danka) 2-No (Bill Paecht, Peter Jezierny)

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Trisha Danka: Explains that she had requested a legal opinion yesterday because she does not understand the meaning of an emergency transfer from what she read in the Charter. She also states that she would like to know if it was proper to transfer more than \$50,000 without a Town meeting. She feels that this was a justified request.

Robert J. Koskelowski: Feels that the Charter is clear and that they are misinterpreting the meaning of an Emergency Transfer and that the Board of Selectmen have the authority to determine whether it is needed or not. He also feels that the Legal fees in Town have been criticized so severely that he did not want to ask for a legal opinion when it was not necessary because the Charter is clear.

Motion to request a legal opinion from Town Counsel concerning Emergency Transfers.

Motion: Nancy Onofrio

Second: No Second

Motion Fails.

ITEM # 15 – Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06PM.

Motion: Peter Jezierny

Second: Bill Paecht

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Submitted by,



Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

VIA EMAIL

Trisha Danka,
Chairman Board of Finance