

Board of Selectmen
First Selectman's Office
March 5, 2010
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Peter Govert and Emmett Lyman.
Also Present: Linda Zemienieski and Cindy Varricchio.

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Budget Reviews - Other: Mr. Govert wished to discuss the Youth & Family Services budget again. He noted their need to hire clerical staff for 10 hours per week. Ms. Varricchio noted in their detailed financial report they had quite a bit of money but it was all earmarked for individual purposes. Mr. Walter felt the board needed to work closer with these agencies to understand their operation. He asked how much money they had. Ms. Varricchio reviewed their financials and noted they had \$87,000 in restricted assets earmarked for the skate park, food bank and project graduation. The board noted that the only way to improve these types of agencies was to migrate them into town departments. Mr. Walter asked if anyone had an idea of how many towns have Youth and Family Services as a town agency. Ms. Varricchio noted that many towns have this group as a town department. Mr. Govert commented that it would be nice to free up Toni McCabe's time in order to allow her to perform her social work duties instead of clerical duties.

The selectmen discussed the Board of Education budget again. Mr. Walter noted that the budget figure used was the last budget number received from the Board of Education and this was the figure he planned to forward to the Board of Finance. He commented that he gave his opinion to the Board of Education all year long and did not feel it was right that the Board of Selectmen got overly involved in scrutinizing the makeup of the Board of Education budget. Mr. Govert commented that he felt sure the Board of Selectmen would weigh in if the Board of Education were to make extreme cuts or come forward with an 11% increase. Mr. Govert added that he had thought this through and felt he performed his due diligence research regarding the Board of Education budget and was okay with approving the Board of Education budget with a 2.51% increase.

Mr. Govert did comment that he would still like to see Youth and Family Services receive a little help and have the 10 hour per week clerical support put into the budget.

Mr. Lyman noted that he was still troubled with no increase being included for the First Selectman's salary and felt we were devaluating and degrading the position.

Ms. Varricchio added that Fred Thumm was working on a contract with Willimantic Waste and by the Board of Finance meeting on March 16, 2010 he might be able to offer some savings in the Transfer Station budget area. She also explained that if health insurance were offered to the employees of the libraries and Youth & Family Services it would not impact their budgets at this time as currently the employees pay these benefits themselves. Mr. Walter noted that if the town were to offer them these benefits the town would need to take a much larger role in their operations.

Mr. Walter asked who paid the salary for the Youth and Family Services assistant. Mr. Govert responded that it came out of the Youth and Family Services budget. He also added that both Ms. McCabe and Ms. Besier help with the clerical work but they would both be more productive performing the duties they were trained for.

Mr. Walter presented a letter from Dr. Solek that was just received indicating that the Board of Education voted at a special meeting on March 4, 2010, to adopt the school district budget proposal at a level reflecting a 2.51% increase.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend to the Board of Finance a budget of \$27,712,450.00 for fiscal year 2010-2011; which is an increase of 0.86% over the current fiscal year.
Unanimous aye.

3. Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: None

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary