

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

March 22, 2011

Room 119 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Liz Mao at 7:34 PM. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also in attendance was Kate Clarke Buch, Finance Director. The meeting was broadcast over Channel 79.

BUDGET REVIEWS

Parks & Recreation – Murry Stegelmann and Gwen Mogenson met with Susan Swiatek to review this budget. Susan was present during the meeting to answer questions, as was Jane Brannigan, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Highlights included an increase in program delivery and a continued drop in complaints. Most capital projects had already been cut by the Board of Selectmen, which Sue said could only be delayed so much longer (the BOS did approve paddle court renovations for \$14,000).

On the revenue side, beach sticker costs were increased to \$40. This was done after the revenue budget was prepared, so revenue for FY 2011-2012 is expected to be increased by **\$52,995 (equivalent to a cut)**. This is also expected to affect 2010-2011 revenue.

Building design for Weed Beach is completed; work is expected to start August 15th.

Senior Center – Joe Duwan and Lori Bora worked on the Senior Center budget. Deferred maintenance is still an issue, but not much can be done while the decision about moving the Senior Center to a new facility is pending. Additional part time help is needed for daytime cleaning.

No reductions were proposed, but it would help to **restore \$800** in printing costs to include the Senior Center in the Parks and Recreation brochure.

The hot lunch program is on budget. The Board did decide to begin showing the gross costs of the program, with a new, offsetting revenue line, both in the amount of \$43,910 (no change in net cost).

On the capital side, the \$6,500 expenditure for a grease trap is required by law. Sue will try to make sure it's used in the new facility.

Fire Departments

Gwen Mogenson and Jon Zagrodzky reviewed the fire station and related budgets.

- **Darien.** No changes to the budget. The Town of Darien Firefighter Foundation, which coordinates fundraising, was discussed. Also discussed was the need to continue replacing radios, funding for which is included in Small Capital.
- **Noroton Heights.** No changes to the operating budget, but the chief would like **capital of \$4,673 restored** for the purchase of telescoping jacks, which are used in responding to major vehicle accidents. The addition will be proposed to the Board of Selectmen.
- **Noroton.** No discussion held yet; will address soon.
- **Fire Marshal.** No changes to the budget. Slightly lower budget due to reduced inspector hours.
- **Fire Commission.** No changes to the budget. It was decided to leave the proposed \$325,000 in capital expense for the apparatus reserve in place.
- **Fire Hydrants.** No changes to the budget – charges set contractually with Aquarion Water.

Disaster Preparation

- **Emergency Preparedness.** No changes to the budget. Costs include funds for a Preparedness Guide and two satellite phones.
- **Emergency Medical Services.** No changes to the budget.

Human Services

- **Social Services.** No changes to the budget. Increase in part time help (+5 hours per week). Trend: 86 new clients in the last quarter. Murry Stegelmann asked why the town administrator would cut their emergency aid budget by \$1,000 (to \$17,000) in these difficult times.
- **Youth Services.** No changes to the operating budget, but take out **\$7,500 in revenue for the Town Carnival (add back).**
- **Public Health.** No changes to the budget.

Building Control – No changes to the budget.

Legal Services – No changes to the budget; costs are hard to project.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed and approved (with amendments/corrections) minutes from prior meetings:

- March 1, 2011 – Gwen moved approval, approved 6-0 (Murry Stegelmann abstained due to absence on March 1st).
- March 8, 2011 – Murry moved approval, approved 7-0.
- March 15, 2011 – Joe moved approval, approved 5-0 (Murry Stegelmann and Jon Zagrodzky abstained due to absence on March 15th).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Joe Duwan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0 at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Zagrodzky
Clerk