

Draft Minutes
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
March 23, 2010
7:30 PM – Room 206

Chairman Stegelmann called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. In attendance were: Ms. Banks, Ms. Bora, Mr. Duwan, Ms. Mogenson, Mr. Stegelmann, Mr. Zagrodzky and town Finance Director, Ms. Buch. Ms. Mao was absent. The meeting was not taped by Channel 79.

Members of the Finance and Budget subcommittee of the RTM presented their findings regarding the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Education (BOE) budget proposals. Mr. Bruce Orr stated that he was okay with the BOS budget but had issues with labor costs related to the BOE budget. Mr. Stegelmann noted that if the operating and capital budgets were approved as presented there would be a 5% increase in the mill rate, which the BOF sees as unacceptable.

Mr. Bill Smith asked for line item detail regarding the library budget grant. Mr. Stegelmann noted that the BOF received line item actual and budget detail along with the latest library audit report, and that these disclosures generally agreed. Increased energy costs make up $\frac{1}{2}$ of the library's budget increase request and they are using some of their endowment to limit their town budget increase to 2.3%.

Mr. Jack Davis reviewed several of his areas of concern related to the BOE budget. These included: use of technology by management, operational efficiencies, intramural sports which is currently no fee, grade level team leaders in the elementary schools, special education and some of the capital budget requests.

Ms. Nora McIlree, who also reviewed the BOS budget, questioned the replacement schedule for town cars and whether we should discontinue the town-wide spring trash pick-up.

Mr. Orr wondered if we should reduce the pension fund contribution but Mr. Stegelmann felt strongly that we need to make the full actuary recommended contribution to preserve our financial integrity.

The Board then reviewed the Fire Marshall and Emergency Services budgets. The Board would like to have greater detail and more advance notice from the Fire Depts. regarding capital purchases and the use of equipment reserves. Since Fire Dept personnel are not town employees they are not subject to the same financial controls and the Board wants to ensure proper due diligence.

The Board is proposing a \$6350 cut to the Emergency Services capital reserve account related to the purchase of an additional 120 cots. The town currently has 300 and in the recent multi-day storm aftermath, no one used the cots at the shelter that was opened.

The Board then reviewed the Public Works budget. Based on current year results, it appears that both Solid Waste (Dump) revenues and expenses are overstated. Ms. Buch stated that these will generally offset each other. Mr. Stegelmann requested that the budget request be reduced by \$100,000 for both Solid Waste revenues and expenses. The Board suggested a \$10,000 cut to Ice Control Materials. The town has a generous supply on hand and because current prices are low Mr. Steeger intends to acquire the maximum amount we can store through this year's expenditures.

Mr. Duwan moved to go to other business, which was seconded. He then discussed the Building Control budget. They are cutting a part-time building inspector.

The Board reviewed a transfer request for \$39,183 from Contingency to make the full contribution to the Town and Police pension funds as recommended by the actuary. The transfer is related to a clerical error in the current year budget. Mr. Zagrodzky moved to approve which passed 6-0.

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Mogenson
Acting Clerk