

DRAFT MINUTES 2
BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2009
7:30 PM –Room 119

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Murry Stegelmann at 7: 35 PM. All members and Kate Clarke Buch, Finance Director, were present. Also present was Mark Chapman of the firm of IBIC, Financial Advisor. The meeting was not broadcast on Channel 79.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Martha Banks made a motion to re-elect Murry Stegelmann as Chairman of the Board of Finance. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

Lori Bora made a motion to re-elect Martha Banks as Vice –Chair. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

Murry Stegelmann made a motion to re-elect Liz Mao as Clerk. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

Liz Mao made a motion to fund the Noroton River Watershed Study out of infrastructure reserve in the amount of \$130,000. The study is to be done by the firm of Malone and MacBroom. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0.

DEBT ISSUANCE

Mark Chapman, of the firm of IBIC, was present to discuss the timing of the issuance of bonds. The Board agreed that in light of lower short tem interest rates, we ought to try and capture them. Accordingly, the members came to the conclusion that Scenario 6, as outlined by Mr. Chapman, would provide the best mix of length of maturities, interest rates and timing of repayment given the town’s other scheduled debt payments.

Liz Mao then made a motion to sell \$4,000,000 (four million dollars) in bonds under Scenario 6 in the proposal by IBIC, and to authorize Murry Stegelmann or his designee to conduct the bond sale. (The four million dollars consists of \$3,750,000 in funding for Darien High School and \$250,000 to cover the cost of a new console for the Police Department.) The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

It was reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the spending of \$15,900 for Flood Map Revision. Murry Stegelmann suggested that the funds come from Infrastructure Reserve rather than from Contingency. Martha Banks then made a motion to transfer \$15,900 from Infrastructure Reserve to fund the Flood Map revisions. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kate Buch discussed the financial update with the members. Several members expressed frustration with the sick and vacation time payouts and asked whether the Town could change their policy and various scenarios as to how to do it. One idea was to hold the current policy for 2010 but give Town employees notice that the policy would change for 2011 in that unlimited carryovers of vacation and sick time would no longer be allowed. A so-called "use it or lose it" policy would be preferred by the Board of Finance. The Board agreed it would discuss the matter with the Board of Selectmen and express its members' desire to consider a change in policy.

FIVE YEAR FORECAST

The Board discussed the assumptions in the five- year forecast as prepared by the Five-Year Forecast Subcommittee. Jon Zagrodzky made a motion to adopt the following: The Board of Finance agrees to pass along the Five Year forecast to the RTM for discussion although the Board of Finance views the projected numbers in the forecast to be unacceptable. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.

CALENDAR

The Board discussed the proposed calendar and approved it upon motion by Jon Zagrodzky, a second to the motion, and a vote of 7-0.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Gwen Mogenson discussed the Advisory and Information and Technology Committee.

Jon Zagrodzky reported that the Audit Committee was collecting all financial policies. Kate Buch suggested adding a Policy on debt issuance.

Martha reported that we were awaiting a decision about Baker Field.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 27, 2009—Lori Bora moved the approval. The motion was seconded and approved 6-0-1 with Joe Duwan abstaining.

September 15, 2009—Lori Bora made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, by adding the sentence, “Channel 79 was not present.” The motion was seconded and approved 6-0-1 (Joe Duwan abstaining)

October 20, 2009—Jon Zagrodzky made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, by changing the language discussing the Chairman’s report to read, “Murry Stegelmann reported that the State of Connecticut was going to send the balance of the ECS grant to the Board of Education instead of paying it directly to the Town.” The motion was seconded and approved 6-0-1 (Joe Duwan abstaining)

Murry Stegelmann made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Smith Mao, Clerk

