

# April 20, 2009

*The following minutes of the Board of Finance meeting are submitted subject to approval at the next meeting.*

## **Special Budget Meeting**

Chairman, Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

### **Present:**

Members: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Jack Field, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Selectmen: Mark Lyon

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted.

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

Approved as submitted. If the current tax collection trend continues, we probably will have a somewhat less fund balance than usual at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Approved as submitted.

### **Financials:**

Expenses are running on track; however, Winter Maintenance is \$52,000 over budget due to the numerous storms this past winter season. Plans to address a special appropriation regarding this over-expenditure will be addressed for consideration at the May town meeting. Future budgets will most likely include coverage for increased material costs.

### **Depot Firehouse Lease:**

The upstairs space at the Depot Firehouse will be available at the end of this fiscal year. Use of this area will be reviewed for possible use for municipal space prior to extending it for commercial space. However, it was noted this space is not accessible to the handicapped. Window replacement/repair that has been budgeted will be done on the building while the space is empty.

### **Capital Projects:**

Town Aid Road funds have been transferred to the Capital Fund for completed road projects as budgeted.

Other capital projects currently include:

\* Beach house replacement to begin in the fall.

\* Reconstruction of the Nettleton Hollow Road bridge - this summer. Final approval has been received by the D.E.P.

\* Painter Ridge Road – Reclamation project awarded to Waters Construction Co. – this summer.

Other projects are being reviewed by the Building and Property Committee and include:

Material storage capabilities at the Blackville Road garage site. Engineering work may be required, as well as movement of materials from the Titus Road site. State and federal funding opportunities and requirements were discussed but nothing is concrete at this point.

### **2009-10 Budget:** General discussion included:

\* Minor changes in the proposed General Fund budget, including health insurance costs, which will not be available before May 1.

\* Currently, General Fund expenditures are proposed at \$3,951,125. This figure will change as further budget information is received.

\* The establishment of a Legal Litigation Fund.

**Revenue:**

Discussion was held on the method of forecasting revenue due to the country's current economic conditions and how they could affect property owners. The Board agreed that the Tax Collector has done an excellent job, but many items must be taken into consideration, including the increase in pupil population 45.25% to 45.95% for 2009-2010. The Board agreed they will proceed with their current plan and will use General Fund surplus, if necessary. The Selectmen also agreed that certain Capital projects would be diverted, if necessary, until such time as Town finances would allow their completion. Town employees have agreed to a 0% increase in their wages, for which the Selectmen noted their appreciation.

**Education:**

Jack Field reported repair projects on the WPS are proceeding slowly. Tony Bedini is working with local contractor to obtain estimates.

**Alternate's Position:**

The Board discussed the vacancy in the position of alternate on the Board. By CGS, the Board is empowered to fill vacancies and has attempted to maintain a balance of political parties in the best interest of the Town. Currently, there are three Republicans and three Democrats as Regular Board members and two Republican and one Democrat Alternate positions. The current vacancy occurred in a seat currently held by a Republican.

Jack Field suggested Tony Bedini, an unaffiliated voter, be considered for this position as there are a significant number of unaffiliated voters in Town. He felt that Tony had been attending meetings and has done an excellent job in many projects associated with the Town.

Town Treasurer Linda McGarr suggested the Board interview the candidates recommended by the Republican Town Committee. She felt the process of interviewing candidates should continue at it had, at times, in the past. Michael Jackson noted while recommendations are requested of the Town Committees for the Board to consider; the Board ultimately decides on the appointment. He felt everyone was comfortable with the candidate suggested, absent the discussion that they are not comfortable with the process. Jack Boyer made a motion to appoint Tony Bedini to fill this position as alternate for the unexpired term until the next election. Craig Schoon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. This term continues until November 2011.

**Legal Litigation Fund:**

The establishment of a Legal Litigation Fund will be proposed as a new fund for the coming budget, with residuals resulting from lack of indebtedness to remain in this Fund for future expenses in litigation cases.. Monies for this Fund would be transferred directly from the General Fund Balance to this Fund, as will monies for the Open Space and Housing Funds. They will be shown separately on the Budget when presented to the voters as recommended by the auditor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Gollow, Secretary.