

# July 20, 2009

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

Chairman, Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:56 p.m.

## **Present**

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

Alternates: Liddy Adams, Tony Bedini, A. J. Dubois

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Nicholas Solley

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

## **Minutes**

Minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting accepted as submitted.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Accepted as submitted.

## **Financials**

General Fund expenses for 2009-2010 were reviewed. While total expenses exceeded the 2008-2009 budget, it was noted this was mainly due to expenses in the Building Inspection area, which had been expected. This expense is offset annually by income in this area and is addressed through audit. Winter Maintenance expenses also exceeded the budgeted line item. These expenses will be addressed at the October town meeting with a resolution to approve the additional costs.

Nonrecurring Capital projects completed as of June 30, 2009 will be reviewed at the next meeting. Surplus funds from completed projects will be returned to the General Fund. Town Aid Road funds will be transferred to the NRCEF offset costs as planned in the budget. It is anticipated Town Aid Road funds will be reduced by 25% for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

## **New Business**

### Land Use Consultant and Performance Bonds:

Tony Bedini reported a review of the procedures used by the various land use commission indicates various procedures have been used to track these bonds. He suggested this be included in Linda Savitsky's review of the financial operations. The Board agreed.

## **Education**

Tony Bedini reported he and Charlie Boucher had reviewed specifications and measurements for the replacement of the Booth Free School roof, as well as inspecting the roof itself. They arrived at a price of \$87,000 for the project, while the Region had been charged \$192,000. They met with the Superintendent

of Schools and the architect from Silver/Petrucci to review the specifications.

Tony reported local contractors felt the architect should have provided due diligence in the project and there should be more direction and involvement by persons experienced in building construction when renovating the school buildings. While bidding procedures are being followed, no one with a knowledge of the building process is available. There is no vetting of what goes into a bid and no inquiry as to what goes into the process or construction. He felt the same is true of the maintenance of the buildings and that personnel at the Region are defensive when questioned about this. He asked if the towns have the right to ask for presentations from bidders and noted the possibility of the towns extending the invitations to bid has been suggested. Tony does not feel that we can let this matter go and felt a good plant manager could have been hired for the kind of money that has been wasted.

The issue of the leases on the buildings is an additional problem. Statutes direct that the Region has 100% responsibility for maintenance of the buildings and the towns have none. The only place the conditions of the buildings could be addressed with leverage is through the leases. Bonders will not approve because of no lease agreement.

It is hoped with the new leadership and membership on the Board of Education all will strive to rectify this situation. It is hoped the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education can meet to address these issues in the near future.

### **Personnel**

The Board agreed to enter Executive Session at 5:48 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

The Board re-entered the regular session at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow  
Secretary