

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
P.O. BOX 308
SOMERS, CT 06071**

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2010
TOWN HALL – 7:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, James Persano called the regular meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:05 pm. Members George Warner, Thomas Mazzoli, and Michael Parker were present and constituted a quorum. Also present were First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Board of Education representative Bill Boutwell, Superintendent Dr. Maynard Suffridini, Board of Education member Tim Potrikus, and Finance Director Greg Simmons.

II. SELECTMAN UPDATE:

Ms. Pellegrini announced Greg Simmons will be leaving his job as Finance Director for the Town. She stated that per the Town Charter, a Search Committee composed of 2 individuals from the Board of Finance, 2 from the Board of Selectmen, and 1 non-elected individual will appoint a new CFO. Mr. Simmons will work with Ms. Pellegrini and the consultant, Linda Savitsky, to facilitate the transition.

Ms. Pellegrini informed the Board she had signed a consent order for mold remediation at the Kibbe Fuller building in lieu of a fine from the DEP for the lack of storm water testing.

Ms. Pellegrini re-addressed the \$250,000 fee previously assessed by MIRMA, the Town's workmen's compensation carrier. Currently legislation is pending, which would give the Town 5 years to pay off. Her recommendation is to hold off on payment (originally due in June of 2010) until a final determination from the State.

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE:

Superintendent Dr. Suffridini discussed the proposed Education budget. He outlined a total increase of \$563,785; made up of: salaries (\$393,000); insurance (\$229,000); and fuel account (\$14,000). Cuts were made to utilities and transportation. All other budget items remained frozen at 2009 figures. There were no increases in personnel or services.

Dr. Suffridini stressed the importance of Technology to students and administration, and asked the Board to continue to fund Technology (\$80,000) out of the Capital Improvement Budget.

IV. OPERATING BUDGET DISCUSSION & MEETING DATES :

Mr. Simmons stated that Town department budgets have been completed and received, with exceptions of Fire and Ambulance. He expects a revenue shortfall of approximately \$330,000. The only expense increase requests were from Education (\$563,000) and CIP (\$270,000).

Mr. Simmons pointed out the current mil rate of 22.11; which could be further reduced to 20.98.

Mr. Simmons referred to the following Board of Finance special meeting dates:

- Board of Education: March 15, 2010
- Public Hearing: May 3, 2010
- Annual Meeting: May 17, 2010
- Referendum Vote: May 25, 2010

V. CIP BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Mr. Mazzoli opened the discussion of his review of the CIP budget. He reminded members that the CIP requests were to be made up of emergency items only. The Town could not fund all as requested below. He stated that leases of \$210,000; are expected to go down to \$135,000 next year.

He re-addressed the Town's proposed new ambulance purchase. Using Chief Pagani's proposal, its approximate cost is \$190,000; versus a 5 year lease \$45,000 per year. The cost is net of trade-in. Mr. Persano recommended the lease.

He outlined the Board of Education's request for CIP funds for computer replacement, technology, and air conditioning. Mr. Persano recommended not funding air conditioning. He added that if necessary, funds could be appropriated in the case of a breakdown.

From the Board of Selectmen the request for funds was for computer and server replacement.

Mr. Mazzoli returned to the topic of Mr. Simmons' replacement; recommending Mr. Boutwell to oversee both the Town and School financial activities. Mr. Boutwell felt more information was necessary before he could respond.

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL :

a. January 25, 2010 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to approve the 1/25/10 Minutes as written; seconded Mr. Warner, and unanimously approved.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence was presented for discussion.

VIII. BILLS, TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS:

Mr. Persano read the following Transfer/Additional Appropriation Requests, as submitted by Mr. Simmons:

| Dept | From | To | Amount | Reason |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|
| Building | Supplies | Emerg. Insp. Svcs | \$ 69.00 | After hours call back for coverage. |
| WPCA | Engineering Consult. | Construction | \$ 800.00 | Sunset Dr. well water remediation to be reimbursed by CT DEP. |
| Fire Marshall | Pagers/Radio | Membership/Dues | \$ 120.00 | Dues for CT FM Association Glen Reynolds & Bob Morpurgo. |

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|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Fire | Heat | Building Maint. | \$ 1,800.00 | Emer. replacement of circulator pump and motor on heating system |
| Fire Marshall | Pagers/Radio | Fire Investigation | \$ 600.00 | Increased emergency after hours call for the current fiscal year. |
| Police | Radio Maintenance | Copier | \$ 120.00 | Cover unbudgeted shortfall on copier maintenance contract. |
| Selectmen | Capital Equip. Repl. | Fire Sys. Maint. | \$ 700.00 | To cover emergency replacement of obsolete fire alarm systems panel in the Senior Center building. |
| | Sr. Ctr. Expense | Fire Sys. Maint. | \$ 700.00 | |
| | Public Education | Fire Sys. Maint. | \$ 300.00 | |
| | Vehicle Maintenance | Fire Sys. Maint. | \$ 300.00 | |

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to approve these transfers as indicated; seconded Mr. Warner, and unanimously approved.

IX. OTHER:

No items or issues were presented.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Mazzoli to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Warner, and unanimously voted to adjourn the February 22, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.