

BOARD OF FINANCE

May 26, 2010

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Mr. Monico, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Pieper, Ms. Vissicchio, Mr. Lianos, Mr. Kohlhepp

Also Present: Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – May 24, 2010
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2010
3. Letters from town residents regarding BOE budget
4. Revised Budget Referendum Schedule dated 5/25/10
5. Draft Budget Resolutions dated 5/26/10
6. Department Head Reductions
7. Decrement List

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2010, Mr. Lianos moved their acceptance, seconded by Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Mr. Freda distributed a packet to each board member which included reductions made by each Department Head. Mr. Monico then went over the budget reductions made by each department.

The Public Works department took the largest reduction by eliminating the curbside leaf pickup. Residents will now have to bag their leaves and place them at the curb.

Mr. Kohlhepp asked if there was any plan in place to help mitigate the impact that this will have on senior citizens. Mr. Freda said that he is working with the school system to see if students can help the seniors bag their leaves in return for community service hours which they need to graduate.

Public Works will also eliminate the weekly bulk pickup and will limit it to two times a year. Mr. Kohlhepp said that he hopes that the Town doesn't turn into an eyesore as a result of eliminating the weekly bulk pickup. Mr. Freda said that most area communities only offer bulk pickup twice a year.

Mr. Swinkoski then handed out a decrement list to board members.

The Town budget reductions total \$1,139, 138 and the Board of Education reductions total \$850,000. Of the \$2M reductions, the Town is taking a 57.3% hit and the Board of Education is taking a 42.7% hit. The total budget of \$83.1M is a 2% increase over last year's budget. A Special Budget Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7th at 7:00 PM with the referendum to follow on June 15th.

Mr. Freda said that the cuts are a blend of personnel, overtime and services. He said that it was the best modification of services based on the phone calls, emails and letters that were received.

At 7:35 PM Mr. Hallahan made a motion that the Board recess for 20 minutes to review in caucus the proposals to the FY 10-11 Budget.

Seconded by, Mr. Kohlhepp.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - Yes		

At 8:00 PM, Mr. Monico reconvened the meeting.

Mr. Hallahan commended the department heads for their reductions and also the work that Mr. Freda and Mr. Monico did in spreading out the reductions throughout the Town. Mr. Hallahan said that he is very disappointed that Mr. Freda was unable to obtain concessions from the unions.

Both Mr. Freda and Mr. Monico explained that the unions would not agree to concessions; concessions can only be achieved during the collective bargaining process. They did mention that the firefighters contract and the supervisors contract will be coming up for renegotiation soon and that concessions will be worked on at that time.

Mr. Freda said that he has met with all the Union presidents and they are well aware of the fact that changes to their benefit plans have to be made. Unfortunately, in municipal government, things cannot happen overnight, they take time and as union contracts expire, changes to their benefit plans will be renegotiated.

Mr. Hallahan also expressed his concern about the \$850,000 cut to the Board of Education. He suggested that the Board reduce it to \$425,000. Mr. Freda said that the Superintendent is working on a plan to reduce their budget but it hasn't been finalized yet and he is confident that the Superintendent will be able to work it out.

Further discussion followed.

Mr. Monico then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Town Government Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$39,154,427.

Seconded by, Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - Yes		

Mr. Monico then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Board of Education Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$43,949,350.

Seconded by, Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - No
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - No		

Mr. Monico then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That a Total Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$83,103,777. (Town Government \$39,154,427. - Board of Education of \$43,949,350.) be presented to the Special Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, June 7, 2010.

Seconded by, Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - Yes		

NEW BUSINESS

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector, J. Stacey Yarbrough wanted to remind the public that absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk’s office and will not be available by mail. According to CT State Statutes relating to referendums called with less than 3 weeks notice, ballots are only available and returnable to the Town Clerk’s office as of 4 business days from the submission of the budget resolutions by the Board of Finance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 60 minutes with residents asking questions and making recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Monico moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM, seconded by Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Kohlhepp - Yes		