

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance
Town Hall-August 22, 2016

Members Present: Justin Donnelly, Brian Kost, Eric Harrington, Ryan Anderson and Dr. Ann Huntington. Members Chris Childs was absent. Alternates Present: Tracy Eccles. Alternate J. Michael Stevens was absent.

Also Present: Gerald Goldberg and Micheal Lepore from GYL Financial Synergies, Director of Finance Deborah Cerrato, Treasurer Christine Davidson.

Chairman Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Mr. Anderson made a motion for Tracy Eccles to be accorded voting rights for the absent Chris Childs. The motion was seconded by Brian Kost and passed unanimously.

GYL Financial Synergies disassociation from Wells Fargo and approval of necessary contractual changes- Investment Firm for the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Funds:

Michael Lepore from GYL Financial Synergies explained the change listed above. In June of 2014 the team of Goldberg, Yolles and Lepore, LLC joined the Wells Fargo Financial Network which allowed them to become an independent entity operating under the Wells Fargo umbrella. Wells Fargo was providing custodial services as well as back office services. In April 2016 they changed their name to be GYL Financial Synergies. On August 1, 2016 the group broke away from Wells Fargo and became an independent registered investment advisory (RIA) firm. There is no impact on service. RIA is held to a higher fiduciary standard than a broker dealer. The team was allowed to act as a fiduciary for their clients and have continued to do so. The entire team has made the transition with them, very little change will happen from Suffield's point of view. Wells Fargo has a great toolbox but now they are allowed to independently contract with different organizations to provide services. One is for financial reporting which was introduced and tested in 2006/2007. They have continued the relationship with Investor Force. Suffield's current reports will be unchanged. Since Wells Fargo cannot accommodate the RIA, we needed to change custodians. GYL Financial Synergies decided on Fidelity Investments as their custodian of choice after conducting an RFP. They are located in Boston and they have great brand name recognition and great insurance coverage. Fidelity has insurance through Lloyds of London. FDIC Coverage is under 5 banks for coverage. All organization services will remain the same and costs will remain the same as well as the investment managers and all of the prearrangements that were negotiated on Suffield's behalf will remain the same. So business as usual for Suffield. It will be slightly different for RIA vs. a broker dealer but the contract was written as similarly as they could. Gerald Goldberg is excited about the change and many of their clients wanted them to be organized as an RIA. Mr. Donnelly asked if the motion needs to include the change to GYL Financial Synergies as well as Fidelity as the new custodian. Ms. Davidson stated that the motions only need to include the change to GYL Financial Synergies for both OPEB and CNRE. Retirement commission moved to approve the continuation of services being provided by GYL Financial Synergies and to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into a new contract subject to appropriate legal review at their meeting on August 11, 2016. Mr. Kost asked if the contract change is strictly a name change but everything else remains the same. The representatives from GYL both stated yes. They did state that there is language in the contract differing them as an RIA and not a broker dealer. Format, services and costs are identical. Mr. Harrington asked about actuary services which is separate and apart. No change in investment services. What about record keeping? GYL stated there are no payments being made on OPEB. Pension will all remain the same. It doesn't affect OPEB or CNRE because there are no benefit payments and all assets remain the same. Mrs. Eccles wondered why clients liked RIA vs. Broker/Dealer. Mr. Lepore stated that they are seeing more interest in an independent format vs. a large bank. Mr. Lepore gave an example. Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve continuation of services being provided by GYL Financial Synergies and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract subject to appropriate legal review for the OPEB plan, Mrs. Eccles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GYL Financial Synergies disassociation from Wells Fargo and approval of necessary contractual changes- Investment Firm for the Capital Non Recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Funds:

Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve continuation of services being provided by GYL Financial Synergies and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract subject to appropriate legal review for the CNRE plan, Dr. Huntington seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of proposal by Technology Committee for Video/Audio System replacement upgrade at Police Department to come from Tough Book Laptops for Cruisers Capital Project 1088102-59318-5150:

Ms. Cerrato stated that J. Michael Stevens sent an email that explained that the Technology Committee saved some funds in the purchase of the Tough Books laptops for the cruisers and there is a need for this particular piece of equipment in the police department while the Technology Committee is doing work on other projects in the police department. Mr. Kost asked what the amount is to purchase the Tough Books. Mr. Anderson explained that this is not a purchase of the Tough books, that was already budgeted. They purchased a different brand of laptops for the cruisers that have a solid mounted hard drive. These are the same laptops that the Enfield Police Department uses. This request is to use unused funds to purchase a piece of equipment that is needed as a stop gap measure. Mr. Kost asked if we have to spend additional money for the laptops to work. Mr. Anderson responded that they are using leftover funds instead of spending additional money. Ms. Cerrato stated that they are using leftover funds to purchase this additional equipment. Mr. Kost questioned why we don't just keep the saved money. Mrs. Cerrato stated they wanted to be able to use the unspent funds from the Tough Book Laptops for Cruisers line item to purchase this piece of equipment. Mr. Kost asked how much money this would cost and Mrs. Cerrato responded with \$1,310.00. Mr. Kost made a motion to approve the expenditure to be made out of the Tough Books laptops for Cruisers Capital Project, Mrs. Eccles seconded the motion. Mr. Anderson was asking if the dollar amount is greater than \$10,000 are we allowed to transfer to another project. We cannot change the funds if the scope of the project changed. He was just getting clarification. Ms. Cerrato stated that they could move money regardless of amount. Mrs. Eccles asked what it is that they are buying and Mr. Anderson gave clarification. Ms. Cerrato stated this equipment is something that they need in the police department. Mr. Donnelly stated that J. Michael Stevens is close to the Technology Committee and the amount is not unreasonable. Ms. Cerrato said according to email sent by J. Michael Stevens, this is a stop-gap measure that the Technology Committee had to vet and since they saved money on the laptop purchase, there is a surplus available that could be used. Vote was passed by five votes, Mrs. Eccles abstained.

No executive session was needed for Union Negotiation discussion with Board of Education. They were unable to attend and will present at the next scheduled meeting on September 12th.

Dr. Huntington made a motion to adjourn meeting, Mr. Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously and was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Finnigan