

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of  
Selectmen and the Water Pollution Control Authority  
Sept. 23, 2008 – Middle School Media Center – 7 p.m.

Members present of the Board of Finance (BoF): Justin Donnelly, Sam Fuller, David Tagliavini, Joseph Sangiovanni, alt. Tom Frenaye

Board of Education (BoE): Michael Smith, Maryellen Tunsky, Bob Parks, R. Eccles, Susan Clark, Lauren Life, Lori D'Ostuni and Sue Porcello, Superintendent Reynolds

Board of Selectmen (BoS): Scott Lingenfelter, Brian Fitzgerald, Vicki Spellman, Tim Reynolds

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): Bruce Remington, Bernie Gooch

Chairman of the Board of Finance Justin Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. We meet to discuss the financial goals for the upcoming budget year.

Update: \$3.2 million Receivable – Items that may not be reimbursed as expected:

1. The cosmetic changes for the McAlister School, 2. The format of the land purchase transaction may need to be changed, and 3. All change orders must have the appropriate documentation. We do not know at this time, just what the real reimbursement will be.

Chairman Donnelly also stated that the Bridge Street School Committee met Monday to study the potential uses for the school. Recommendations must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by Jan. 31. Suggestions and recommendations from citizens are welcomed. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 6. He reminded all that requests for project funding must go to the Advisory Commission on Capitol Expenditures (ACCE) before coming before the BoF. He noted that the BoE is responsible for its maintenance; the Town is responsible for renovations, construction and the purchase of capital equipment is the Town's responsibility, not the Board of Education's. Due to the poor economy, the State may reduce state revenue to towns. He noted that the Assessor has estimated a growth of 30% in the Grand List. He believes that this upcoming budget process will be difficult; recommends a 3 – 3.5% increase in dollars. It will not be a good time for new programs.

ADA Compliance Review – First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter stated that the code violations were unfortunate, and the BoS will take the lead and see that all violations will be addressed.

BoF Chairman Donnelly stated that it would be a good thing if the chairs of the BoE, BoS, and Bof meet during the budget process.

WPCA Chairman Bruce Remington reported that a Study to determine the need for sewer service for the 540 homes around the Congamond Lakes in West Suffield will be forthcoming. The WPCA will fund the Study. This work is in the preliminary stage, and the BoF will be kept updated.

BoE Chairman Michael Smith stressed the importance of listening and sharing information. This is very important. He noted that it would be a good thing for the BoF to send a representative to the BoE budget committee meetings.

BoF Chairman Donnelly complimented Joseph Sangiovanni for all his efforts, his hard work, his determination, his presentations on behalf of the proposed New Library project.

Selectman Vicki Spellman asked if the Town knew how much the Code Violations were going to cost? The First Selectman stated that the figure could be substantial. A review of the violations and estimated expenses is underway.

Selectman Brian Fitzgerald noted that it will be a difficult budget year because

1. poor economy
2. flat or reduced State funding
3. revaluation
4. prison is also re-assessed, and this could affect the PILOT money.

Selectman Tim Reynolds noted that the school population has remained flat. The Town needs more economic development.

BoF Thomas Frenaye asked if the process of revaluation will be explained to the residents. The First Selectman replied that the Town will be providing information.

BoF Sam Fuller asked about the Master Plan; what is the long range plan?

BoE Bob Parks noted that the Plan of Development and Conservation is developed by the Zoning and Planning Commission, and has to be updated every 10 years. This year, the Z& P will be updating the Plan.

BoF Justin Donnelly noted that the Town has to identify and prioritize capital projects. BoS Scott Lingenfelter noted that there is Plan of Development and Conservation (Z& P), and the Five Year Capital Plan which is updated every year.

BoE Maryellen Tunsky stated that CREC will be seeking funds from towns for the resolution of Sheff v O'Neil. At this point in time, Suffield has not received such a request.

Chairman Donnelly thanked all the members of the board for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary to the Board of Finance

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