

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on January 21, 2009 in the Economic Development Office of Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Members Attending: Barbara McGrath, Janice Fournier, Tom White,
Jay Handfield, Peter McDevitt Jr.,

Note: The chairman votes only to make or break a tie.

Chairman, Barbara McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public comment

Harry Carboni voiced a concern about the monies invested and the loss to the Town.

Alan Giordano voiced a concern about the investment loss, and questioned if all signatures concerning finances have been updated. Is the Town going to retrieve monies lost?

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – December

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Jay Handfield to accept the meeting minutes from December 17, 2008.

The motion passed unanimously.

Town Controllers Report

The new controller, Thomas Pesce, was introduced and welcomed by the Board.

Jean de Smet gave an update on the 2009 revenue shortfall and expense reductions the Board of Selectmen looked at. The department heads went through their budgets to come up with savings they could make.

Tom White would like to know how the tax money received from the Mills is split between the Service District and the Town.

Tom White would like a report from Jean on where the spending freezes are.

Tom White would like to see on paper the savings listed.

Tom White also asked for the minutes from the Board of Selectman meetings.

General Fund budget transfers for Fiscal Year 2009

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Tom White to transfer \$500.00 from 50113-317 to 50113-206.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Tom White, to transfer \$200.00 from 50606-207, \$150.00 from 50606-301, and \$150.00 from 50606-302 to 50605-302.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Jay Handfield, to transfer \$7,500.00 from 50117-266 to 50117-223.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Jay Handfield, to transfer \$7,500.00 from 50117-280 to 50117-223.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Peter McDevitt, to transfer \$42,000.00 from 50907-403, \$13,000.00 from 50905-110 to 50908-113.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Jay Handfield, to transfer \$2,000.00 from 50102-227 to 50102-221.

The motion passed unanimously.

The transfer for animal control was discussed. Don Muirhead explained that a position was eliminated and it has been filled in with a contractor and part-timer. More time is being spent on socialization and training animals.

Upon a motion by Janice Fournier, seconded by Peter McDevitt, to transfer \$3,000.00 from 50202-101 to 50202-207.

The motion passed with Tom White opposing.

Discussion and possible action to create a heart safe fund

Jean de Smet explained that Dawn Niles has formed a heart safe committee and the committee is trying to get people trained in CPR and AED in different departments in Town. They are asking for no funding from the Town and will start a collection and do fundraising. The committee is asking the Board to create a fund. The heart safe training is going to be done by paramedics from the hospital. The board is inviting Dawn Niles to come before the board to explain what the fund is, what it is for, and how much money will be involved.

Upon a motion by Tom White, seconded by Peter McDevitt, to postpone creating a heart safe fund until next meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from Gay St. Louis regarding collection of taxes

Tax collector, Gay St. Louis, spoke about the policies for collecting taxes. It was discussed looking into a constable and what the charges are compared to a marshal. The task of getting people to open their mail and using different envelopes with sayings was also discussed. Posting a delinquent tax payer listing in the paper was talked about.

Report on Capital Improvement Plan Committee meeting

Barbara McGrath shared some information from the Capital Improvement Plan Committee meeting. The form was revised and sent out to department heads. They were asked to point out what match would be required and if there was any cost savings.

Discussion and possible action on budget process and schedule for 2009

The Board of Selectmen budget schedule was reviewed.

Other business to come before BOF

Barbara McGrath gave an update on the investment funds. The Town attorney is looking into the capacity of recouping the money lost. Do we do the most conservative thing and sell or do we look at other options. Possible options could be to transfer to a different type of fund that is authorized by the state or postpone making a decision to recoup some of the loss.

Tom White questioned why the money wasn't moved two months ago.

Tom White asked for an update of the current status of the investment funds.

Barbara McGrath recommended establishing an investment policy.

Barbara McGrath shared some information from the Board of Education Finance and Budget Committee meeting.

Jean de Smet talked about the parking garage funding. At a meeting with DOT and federal highway, they are indicating we can spend part the money and use it for design by doing feasibility of sites and deciding what we want to build.

Connecticut State Department of Education Division of Finance and Internal Operations comes up with its Annual Equalized Net Grand List per Capita (AENGLC). In December of 2008, the Town of Windham ranks 169 out of 169.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Janice Fournier, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest: _____
Karen Williams, Clerk