

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on October 20, 2010 in the Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Members Attending: Barbara McGrath, Anita Sebestyen, Leo Santucci, Jeffrey Smith,

Chairman, Barbara McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **Public comment**

Lori Jeffers commented on the importance of having the television and microphones on and working at each meeting.

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

Upon a motion by Jeffrey Smith , seconded by Anita Sebestyen to approve the meeting minutes from September 15, 2010, June 8, 2010 and June 30, 2010.

Leo Santucci requested that the spelling of Mr. Krane be corrected to Mr. Crane.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Town Controller's Report**

The Town Controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The following information was distributed to board members:

The adopted 2010-11 budget

The Official statement dated October 13, 2010 for \$9,260,000 in bonds

Moody's rating review

Tax collection comparison report

Preliminary 2009-2010 year end reports for the General Government and Willimantic Service District, and Ambulance fund

Year to date budget summary reports for the General Government and Willimantic Service District

Inception to date budget summary reports for the Magnet School

It was noted that the town saved money by refinancing some of its outstanding debt.

The Town had been paying an average rate of 4.73%, but the refinancing lowered the rate to 2.79%. The majority of the savings will show up in the 2012, 2013, and 2014 budget years. The final maturity date of the bonds was not extended during this transaction. The Town was able to do the refinancing at the same time as the new money issue, borrowing an additional \$4,000,000. Combining the issues saved the town money in costs of issuance. The interest rate received on the new money portion was 2.96%. This is in comparison to the 2006 bond issue, the last time the Town borrowed money, receiving a rate of 4.21% on \$4,420,000 of bonds. Furthermore, the

town received an excellent rate on their bonds due to the Aa3 rating they were awarded from Moody's Investors Service.

Tax collections for the quarter ending September 30, 2010 were lower than previous years. This is due to the fact that bills were delayed one month, and they did not reflect the final tax amount. The collector will be asked to appear before the board to discuss the probability of obtaining the budgeted collection amounts.

The amount budgeted for ambulance fees for the 2009-2010 year fell short by an estimated \$100,000. This shortfall along with the amount needed to acquire a new ambulance led to a discussion concerning the requested inter-fund transfer for the ambulance fund. Grants, leases, and the bid process were described. Jeffrey Smith recommended that the Town hire a consultant to review the Ambulance and Fire Department budgets and perhaps update the New England GFOA ambulance study. Acting Fire Chief Scrivener stated that the a representative from Holdsworth collection services would make a presentation to the board.

The audit is in progress but it is unlikely that it will be completed by December 31, 2010. Jeffrey Smith recommended that consideration be given to engaging a consultant to work with the Town and the Board to develop and implement a plan for various shared device activities.

Under risk management it was noted that the Town Safety Committee had met and CIRMA has provided three on-site training workshops: Defensive Driving, Office Ergonomics, and Accident Investigation. We are monitoring the continued changes in healthcare issues including the contract renewal between Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield and Hartford and Windham Hospitals.

**Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2009-2010 budget transfer requests**

No action was taken.

**Discussion and possible action to recommend the purchase of an ambulance to the Town Council**

No action was taken

**Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2010-2011 budget transfer requests**

There were no transfer requests.

**Discussion and possible action on any Willimantic Service District 2010-2011 budget transfer requests**

There were no transfer requests.

**Any other business appropriate to come before the BOF**

Barbara McGrath noted that the Town received a Freedom of Information complaint concerning the overcrowding of a Board of Finance meeting. The town Attorney has answered the complaint. The Town is developing cost proposals for wiring the auditorium.

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**Public comment**

Lori Jeffers Commented on the importance of having television and microphones installed if the upstairs auditorium is to be used for public meetings.

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Leo Santucci, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Pesce