

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on **November 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anita Sebestyen, Charles Pennewill, Jeffrey Smith, and Nectalis Martinez

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Mary Galucci questioned what research has the Board done on Natchaug School. Natchaug School students should not stay at the middle school.

David Fenn commented the Board is financially responsible for the Town.

Paula Haney commented on the Natchaug School roof.

Mr. Leap commented it will cost a fortune to tear down the school and there are multiple uses for the building.

3. Board of Finance Comment

Anita Sebestyen questioned what did the Board of Education say they did with the savings from Health Insurance. The Town should do something to keep this savings.

Charles Pennewill commented on a recent Board of Education meeting and there was no new information. There is no 10 year plan and other school buildings need repairs and that has not been addressed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill seconded by Nectalis Martinez to approve the meeting minutes from October 17, 2012.

The motion passed with Jeffrey Smith abstaining.

5. Chair's Report

Lynne Ide explained the special meeting versus the regular meeting. The regular meeting was rescheduled and a special meeting is being held tonight. There can be no changes to the agenda. Item number 7 was put on the agenda for discussion and no action will be taken tonight on an appropriation.

Update on the audit is there are weekly conference calls with the auditors and the goal is to be completed by the end of January 2013.

6. Presentations and Special Reports

There are no presentations and special reports.

7. Discussion and possible action on an appropriation and Town meeting regarding Natchaug School Roof

Lynne asked is anyone had additional questions or request for more information.

Necatalis Martinez asked if it would be possible to take a tour of the school.

Jeffrey Smith questioned if the Board was to approve this what would the next step be. Lynne Ide replied it would go to a town meeting for a vote.

Charles Pennewill questioned what is the process to reopen the motion. He would like to see a written 10 year facilities plan from the Board of Education, alternatives to bring kids into the Magnet School, and expanding Sweeney school. He is also concerned with the high school that needs a new roof, and is a new heating system also needed.

Anita Sebestyen would also like to see alternatives with Natchaug School and a 10 year facilities plan.

Jeffrey Smith questioned if the roof was leaking? He would like to see this at a Town Meeting for discussion. That is where this belongs but we need the majority of the information that has been requested before the meeting.

Charles replied it was reported that 9 inches of snow could collapse the roof and for the children's safety they were removed from the school.

If we approve the roof it is just about the roof and not about the building. If the Board of Education does not want the building in 5 years it will be turned over to the Town and will have to pay back the State.

Jeffrey Smith does not want to spend a million dollars to tear a building down. Infrastructure needs to be maintained. If the building is too far damaged the decision will be made for us.

Lynne Ide will put the questions and concerns in writing to the Board of Education and will keep the board posted.

8. Controller's Report

The controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

There was a safety committee meeting today.

The Request for Proposal for financial software services closed this week. There were 2 responses.

The posting for the accounting supervisor position closed earlier this week. The goal is to fill the position for the beginning of January.

Blum Shapiro has been contracted this week for a review of finance offices of the Town and Board of Education.

Jeffrey Smith commented Blum Shapiro has expertise on financial software.

Current year revenues and expenditures for the Town and Willimantic Service District were reviewed.

The Town is still in negotiations with fire and police unions.

Over the next few months the pension funds should be reviewed.

Lynne questioned if the pension committee meeting from October has been rescheduled?

9. Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2012-2013 budget transfer requests

There were no transfer requests.

10. Discussion and possible action on any Willimantic Service District 2012-2013 budget transfer requests

There were no transfer requests.

11. Update and discussion of Board of Finance priorities for Fiscal Year 2013

Topics for the Board of Finance priorities are Request for Proposal for banking services, Dispatch services, Ambulance allocation for expenses, a town council recommendation on the Senior Center

12. Preliminary discussion of process for Fiscal Year 2014

There will be department head meeting on December 5th for discussion on budget.

Jeffrey Smith commented the Board should not sit in on any presentations. The board needs to decide what the Town can afford.

Charles Pennewill commented he has no interest in making policy but would like to hear the priorities of others.

Anita Sebestyen commented it is a good idea for all parties to her the information at the same time.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve meeting schedule for 2013

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to approve the meeting schedule for 2013.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. New Business

Anita commented on the Board of Education using a surplus in healthcare for other purposes. There should be a restriction on that. The funds need to be there in case of an emergency.

15. Future Agenda Items

Jeffrey Smith would like the Natchaug Roof on the agenda.

16. Public Comment

Joe Marsalisi commented the switchboard met with the public safety, town manager, and Town attorney and it was decided to come up with a proposed governing board.

Mary Galuci commented the members of the Board of Finance should see the school as they will see more than what was presented in the engineering report from March. They should also should see the schools where the Natchaug students are now located. The Special Master is not looking into the best interest of the students. She is frustrated as a parent and citizen.

Bernie Dautaeil commented he wishes there was a recording of this meeting. Communication is a vital need. The Board of Education spends funds the way they want. It was the Board of Education's responsibility to take care of Natchaug School.

17. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Charles Pennewill seconded by Anita Sebestyen the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce