

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm in the Finance Room by Claude Pellegrino, Chairman. Members present: Glenn Cheney, Julie Lumpkins, Karen Collins, Kate Tiffany, and Wendy Schnip. Also present: First Selectman Catherine Osten and Treasurer Jeannette Deschamps.

1. Review and act on minutes of December 17, 2009 monthly meeting and January 21, 2010 monthly meeting

Motion made by W. Schnip to approve December 17, 2009 minutes. Seconded by G. Cheney. Unanimously approved.

Motion made by G. Cheney, seconded by K. Tiffany, to approve January 21, 2010 minutes. Discussion. W. Schnip suggested an addition be made to these minutes – after “W. Schnip left at 9:20pm”, add: “Before leaving, W. Schnip submitted the Board of Education public comment policy to Board members.”

Approved with amendment. Abstained by K. Collins and J. Lumpkins.

It was agreed to discuss #2 later in the evening.

2. Monthly Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Town Expenditure reports

J. Deschamps reviewed monthly reports. On the Financial Statement, a bottom line was added – “Funds expected to be rebated”.

3. Discuss and possibly act on acceptance of donation from Liberty Bank to the Sprague Senior Center in the amount of \$1,779 for Senior Center stove and installation

Motion made by K. Collins to appropriate \$1,779 for the Sprague Senior Center stove and installation paid by grant funds from Liberty Bank. Seconded by W. Schnip. Unanimously approved.

4. Discuss and possibly act on acceptance of donation from Wal-Mart to the Sprague Recreation Committee in the amount of \$1,000 to be put in Recreation Fund

Motion made by J. Lumpkins to appropriate \$1,000 to the Sprague Recreation Fund to be funded by the grant from Wal-Mart. Seconded by W. Schnip. Unanimously approved.

Motion made by W. Schnip, seconded by K. Collins to add Item #4a. Unanimously approved.

4a. Discuss and possibly act on appropriation of \$1,000 to the Sprague Public Library for training a literacy dog and its handler to be paid for by the grant from Jewett City Savings Bank

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, seconded by K. Collins, to appropriate \$1,000 to the Sprague Public Library for training a literacy dog and its handler to be paid for by the grant from Jewett City Savings Bank. Unanimously approved.

5. Discuss and possibly act on auditor and accountant appointment

C. Pellegrino stated communication problems with the auditor and accountant have been remedied and suggested we continue with Marien and Co. and Accountant Ed Muenzner. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by W. Schnip to reappoint Marien & Co. as auditor and retain Ed Muenzner as accountant. Seconded by G. Cheney. Unanimously approved.

Board of Finance

6. Discuss, prepare and adopt operating and non-recurring items budget submission review schedule

After discussion, it was agreed to schedule the following:

March 4 – Budget presentation, Board of Education;

March 11 – Budget presentation, Selectmen agencies;

March 18 – Budget presentation, Planning & Zoning, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, Library, Fire Department and Emergency Management

K. Collins suggested the March 4th special meeting be held at Sayles School.

C. Pellegrino will contact Ed Senesac to see if this would be okay with the BOE.

7. Discuss and possibly act on public comment policy and procedure

Discussion on public comment policy. The Board agreed to limit each speaker to 2 minutes and total public comment time to 20 minutes at regular monthly meetings. Draft to be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

8. Review and discuss financing methods for recurring and non-recurring expenditures

In preparation for budget related decisions at subsequent meetings, C. Pellegrino summarized the various sources of revenue for the town and their proportion to expenditures.

Board returned to Item #2.

9. Review and discuss capital submissions

Tabled until next monthly meeting.

10. First Selectman's Report

LaCroix Bridge design – to be finished in December.

Dam project contract signing next week; work to start in March or April.

Shetucket Village plans discussed, applying for grants.

Consulted financial advisor on capital plans.

Looking into regionalization of Animal Control Officer and revaluation.

Looking into regionalizing in equipment e.g., brush hog.

11. Old Business Update

Financial reports from Marien & Co. were distributed to board members.

G. Cheney inquired about stolen signs. C. Osten stated signs would be replaced.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Any other business proper to come before said meeting

Special meeting to be held on March 4th.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by W. Schnip, seconded by K. Collins to adjourn. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.