

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting – May 19, 2009
MINUTES**

Attending:

Board of Finance Members: Al Alper, Robert Kelso, Jim Meinhold, Warren Serenbetz, Lynne Vanderslice (Absent: Andy Pforzheimer)

Others: Joseph Dolan

Call to Order:

Warren Serenbetz called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Meeting of April 21, 2009

Bob Kelso motioned that the Minutes be approved as written; Lynne Vanderslice seconded, and the motion passed 4-0, Al Alper abstaining.

Application for an “Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation” grant of \$25,256:

The Board reviewed First Selectman William Brennan’s request for approval to submit an application for the State Transportation Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation in the amount of \$25,256. It was noted that the matching grant is the same amount that the Town received last year, which is used to provide additional weekday service to the Dial-A-Ride program and is considered the annual Dial-A-Ride budget.

Mr. Serenbetz asked for a motion to approve the submission of the \$25,256 grant request to the State of Connecticut for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation; Mr. Alper so motioned, Jim Meinhold seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Selection of auditors for FY 2009:

Mr. Serenbetz asked for a motion to approve McGladrey & Pullen as independent auditor for the Town of Wilton for Fiscal Year 2009; Mr. Kelso so motioned, Ms. Vanderslice seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting vote results:

Joe Dolan distributed a summary of historical data, which indicated a fairly consistent trend with respect to the vote, and the Board discussed the May 5 Annual Town Meeting vote results in detail. Mr. Serenbetz noted that he had received many positive comments on the meeting expressing that it had been well run and had had good presentations. Mr. Alper also reminded the Board that it needed to initiate a tri-board meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education when the budget process starts again in September.

Other Business:

Charter Commission:

Mr. Alper strongly recommended that the BOF come to a consensus and take a public position on two items the Charter Commission was reviewing and soliciting public feedback on at its June 3 meeting with respect to possible changes to the Charter – removal of budget line item authority by the Board of Finance and a 15 percent voter threshold to increase line items in the budget at the Annual Town Meeting.

After extensive discussion, the Board agreed that it was important to make a public statement at the June 3 Charter Commission meeting affirming its position that the BOF strongly favored retaining line item authority and encouraged the Charter Commission not to change the existing powers of the Town Meeting with regard to the budget.

Mr. Alper motioned that the BOF affirm its position at the June 3 Charter Commission meeting, via statement by Chairman Serenbetz, that line item authority be retained by the Board of Finance as a valuable financial management tool to ensure appropriate management of the Town's finances, Mr. Kelso seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Serenbetz asked for a motion that the BOF recommend to the Charter Commission at the June 3 meeting that the existing power of the Town Meeting not be changed with respect to the budget. Mr. Meinhold so motioned; Mr. Kelso seconded.

After further discussion, Mr. Alper moved to amend the motion as follows: That the BOF recommend to the Charter Commission at the June 3 meeting that the existing power of the Town Meeting not be changed with respect to the budget before consultation with the appropriate financial entities of the Town, i.e. the Board of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Kelso seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

CCM:

Mr. Alper encouraged board members to read an article appearing in the April, 2009 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities newsletter entitled "Two State Budget Proposals on Table: Negotiations Underway, Municipal Aid Hangs in Balance."

Route 7 Widening Project Vehicle Use Fee:

Mr. Alper asked if there was any sense when reimbursement from the State would end with respect to the vehicle use fee the Town receives for police cars during the Route 7 widening project. Mr. Dolan stated that that would depend whether the project is put on hiatus beyond the Olmstead Hill Road point, but he confirmed that the Town would eventually stop receiving those funds sometime after FY '10.

Public Letters:

Mr. Meinhold advised that he was formally submitting letters received by the BOF (copies appended hereto) regarding the budget for inclusion into the public record from the following individuals:

Greg Schnitzler	Connie Cobb	Vicky & Adam Markham
Matt Zeyher	Jennifer & Geody Davatzes	Michele & Mark Bennett
Patti Hoffmann	Terrence & Kim Mangan	Loralyn Cropper
Katie Denious	Karen Danvers	Marc and Lana Taubin
Christine Winrow	Lelei Coyle	Greg & Gina Jansen
Lory Rothstein	Bernadette & John Hess	Carolyn Edgerton
Franklin R. Dunn	Maura & Michael Chapey	Maureen Judge
Laura & Anthony Iorfino	Sloane Levy & Glenn Blicht	Margaret Greene
Wendy E. Nadel	Pam & Brian Cole	Debra Brooks Forsyth
Elizabeth Cocoros	Kathleen Foster	Theresa & Roger Hueglin
Susan E. Bell	Ed Papp	Tricia & Chris Rosen
Sibylle B. Kinley	Darrell K. Fennell	Patty Tomasetti
Lory McCabe	Liz Torkelsen	Lauren Yoon
Grace Huang	Kathryn Buis	Gretchen R. Kilmartin
Barbarajean Segall	Thomas L. Forsyth	Leena Wangneo
Bev & Peter Hermann	Christopher DiMattio	Marianne & David Wallace
Carolina & Kevin Corrigan	G. Ann Byrne	John & Leslie Hinshaw
Janet Nobles	Joan Starr	Mac Nadel
Janine & Mark Kelly	Maria Wilcox	Amy L. Harris
James & Gail Konatsotis	M. K. Callaghan	Suzanne & Derek Ettie
John Weiss & Linda Frankemolle Weiss	Paula Casiraghi	Lou Reens
Anna MacDonald	Jenn Wadehra	Paul Brant
Sherry Cunningham	Peter & Pam Kirchof	Anna & Vincent Raimondi
Chris Sanzaro	Colette Poirier	Steve & Kim Cafiero
Beth & Dan Purvis	Lauren M. Feltz	Camille Kramer
Matthew Kobin	Maria Haljun	Sunanda & Raj Nagpal
Donna Sargeantson	Latin Mermaid	Luisa C. Uriarte
Andy Rappaport	Michael E. Graupner	Ann Duffy & Nick Hanna
Amanda Lord	Kate & Richard Filaski	Marianne Howatson
James Bargon	Steve Tuin	Julia & Tom Walker
Claudia & Martin Avallone	Lisa Benison	Brian Ward
Richard Smith	Savet Constantine & Craig Muraskin	Anne Munkenbeck
Susan & John Lash	Pat Hoeg	Andrea Bates
Darrell Fennell	Gail Latone	Karen Kachadoorian
Annalisa Stravato	Heather Wilcauskas	Jennifer Lipsky
Adriana Galimi	Peter & Claire Ewing	Debbie Ricketts
		Jennifer Reese

Carolyn Mellana
Ginette Courtney

Charissa McWilliams
Pam Carlson

Elizabeth Hughes
Debbie Bargon

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Adjournment:

Mr. Serenbetz asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alper so motioned; Ms. Vanderslice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Corra
Recording Secretary