

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting – July 21, 2009
MINUTES**

Attending:

Board of Finance Members: Al Alper, Robert Kelso, Jim Meinhold, Andy Pforzheimer (7:34 p.m.), Warren Serenbetz (Notified Absence: Lynne Vanderslice)

Others: Joseph Dolan; Judy Zucker (Chair, Elderly Tax Relief Committee)

Call to Order:

Warren Serenbetz called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Meeting of June 16, 2009

Al Alper motioned that the Minutes be approved as written; Jim Meinhold seconded, and the motion passed 4 – 0 (Pforzheimer not present for vote).

Elderly Tax Relief Committee:

Judy Zucker asked for input with respect to the newly formed Elderly Tax Relief Committee and invited board members to attend the Committee's weekly meetings. She stressed that BOF involvement and participation during the process would be extremely helpful and important to the group. Ms. Zucker also advised that the Board of Selectmen had reaffirmed that the Town's tax relief program should be a needs-based program.

Joe Dolan noted that the BOF plays a critical role in the process since it is the entity, under state statute, which will recommend any amendments to the program submitted to it by the BOS.

Andy Pforzheimer suggested making minutes from the weekly meetings available to board members who cannot attend the meetings. Messrs. Serenbetz and Meinhold both said they would try to attend as many of the weekly meetings as possible and keep the Board updated on committee activities. Mr. Serenbetz also asked individuals to forward any thoughts or suggestions to him prior to the Tuesday meetings so that he may convey them to the Committee.

NESC Inter-municipal Cost Savings Study:

Mr. Serenbetz reviewed the letter he and Bob Kelso had received from Bill Brautigam with respect to exploring a National Executive Services Corps (NESC) inter-jurisdictional cost savings study. After discussion, the Board agreed that it would be a good idea to ask a representative from NESC to come to a future meeting to discuss comparable work the organization has done with similar municipalities and to ascertain the cost of doing such a study.

[NOTE: Mr. Pforzheimer left at this point in the meeting at 7:50 p.m.]

Mr. Alper stated that he strongly believed that with the right charge such a study would be of tremendous value to the Town in the future. Additionally, Mr. Kelso encouraged the Board to revisit next term the Facilities Management Study done by NESC for the Town in 2007 and stated that he thought that that proposal also had a lot of merit.

Mr. Serenbetz said that he would contact Mr. Brautigam about attending a future BOF meeting on the subject.

Other Business:

Charter Commission:

Mr. Serenbetz reviewed the timeline with respect to the Charter Commission process and advised that the Commission had moved ahead with the recommendation that included conditional line item authority by the BOF.

August Meeting:

Mr. Alper motioned to give Chairman Warren Serenbetz proxy to cancel the August, 2009 Board of Finance meeting, if deemed necessary; Mr. Kelso seconded, and the motion passed 4 – 0.

Note Issue:

Mr. Dolan reported that it was likely that the Town would need to do another Note issue for the High School Project, as he had predicted during the budget process. He explained that of the \$11.5 million that had been borrowed, a little under \$4 million remained. Brief Q&A and discussion followed.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Adjournment:

Mr. Serenbetz asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alper so motioned; Mr. Kelso seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Corra
Recording Secretary