

BOARD OF FINANCE
October 15, 2009
Minutes

The Board of Finance of the Town of Trumbull held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2009 in the Courtroom of the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Kathy McGannon, Chairperson
William Crooks, Ken Martin, Marty Shapiro, Tom Tesoro and
alternates Steve Lupien and Lisa Valenti

A quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

In the absence of Mark Smith, Lisa Valenti was designated as the sixth voting member.

Public Comment - None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION MADE (Shapiro), seconded (Tesoro) and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Lupien voted in place of Kathy McGannon, as she was not present at the subject meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not in attendance due to another commitment.

Lisa Valenti commented that she had a question concerning an item relating to the EMS. The Chairperson suggested that she request clarification from the EMS when they make their presentation.

Tabled Item

9/09/02 – Nature Center Appropriation \$615.
From: Available General Fund Balance To: 01010100-590014 (Telephone)

MOTION MADE (Shapiro) and seconded (Tesoro)

Discussion: Pam Georgas, Chairperson of the Nature Commission appeared. Ken Martin indicated that the item had been tabled as the Board had questions regarding the need in general.

Ms. Georgas responded that the Center is progressing and growing very quickly. There are now two office volunteers who require internet access for clerical purposes. Upon inquiry, Ms. Georgas indicated that only adult volunteers would have access to the internet.

Kathy McGannon and Bill Crooks commented that a clearer picture is needed as to what the Town Council intended the Town to fund.

Mary Beth Thornton, a Council member, approached and clarified that it was agreed that, as the Center is a Town building, items such as telephone lines would be included. Her opinion was that the internet is part of the telephone line and should be funded.

Vote: Motion carries unanimously 6-0.

There was a unanimous consensus to move the agenda to take 10/02/03 out of order.

10/09/03 – EMS \$10,000

From: 01022600-534402 (Program Supplies) To: 01022600-581888 (Capital Outlay)

MOTION MADE (Shapiro) and seconded (Testoro)

Discussion: Vi Watson and Barbara Crandall addressed the Board on behalf of the EMS.

The requested transfer of funds was to allow for the purchase of two hydraulic stretchers. Ms. Crandall relayed that the hydraulic stretchers will result in easier lifting, which will help avoid the back and other injuries that have occurred among the staff and volunteers.

Upon inquiry, Ms. Crandall indicated that the monies remaining in the program supply account will be adequate.

Vote: Unanimous (6) – Motion Carries.

10/09/01 – \$308,272.00

Bonding Resolution for Funding of the GIS Project

MOTION MADE (Shapiro) and seconded (Testoro)

Discussion: Bill Crooks suggested that the amount be rounded to \$310,000.00, as bonds are not issued in the amount requested.

The Tax Assessor, Ross Murray and member of the GIS Committee began the presentation. He submitted the Committee's report and provided an overview of the project's objectives. He relayed that the original estimated cost was between \$500,000 and \$800,000 and due to the current economic climate that cost has been brought down to about \$300,000.

The program's goal was to computerize the Town's parcel and topographic maps and make them available electronically to town employees and residents.

The Town Engineer, Stephen Savarese, relayed that the last aerial flyover occurred in 1964 and since then the mapping has been updated manually. He indicated that the GIS

system would greatly enhance the Town's mapping system by capturing all things visible including buildings, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, etc. The system will also be a cost benefit to the Town as various outside contractors could be eliminated. Residents will also benefit as most of the mapping will be available at no cost.

Brian Casey, of the Police Department, submitted an example of the current mapping system being utilized by the Police Department. The map also showed how the information would be enhanced when integrated with the GSI system. He indicated that having house numbers and other vital information at their disposal will help facilitate emergency response.

A question arose as to the cost to integrate the system into the various town departments.

Richard White responded that the software package to incorporate the standards required by town departments was included as one of the deliverables from the vendor chosen.

On the question relating to privacy, Mr. White indicated that the ability exists to separate what would be available to the general public from the information that needs to be protected.

Commissioner Crooks inquired as to maintenance fees and what, if any, additional costs may be required.

Ross Murray responded that it's possible that there would be discretionary layers that we may want to apply for down the road. Annual maintenance fees were quoted at \$4,850.00.

Several Board members suggested that the Board of Education be encouraged to participate in the program.

Commissioner Crooks noted that the second low bidder was chosen and for the record asked that a reason be given.

Ross Murray responded that one of reasons was that CDM was the only company who offered help in developing policies. The most significant was that this company had recently completed a comparable project in a much larger city.

Commissioner Crooks relayed that his thoughts on this were positive but that he preferred to visit a few of the surrounding towns to confirm that we are going in the right direction. He added further that he was not prepared to act tonight as he only received the report last night and has not had to time for proper review.

Ross Murray relayed that the Committee has consulted with GSI people from surrounding towns.

Kathy McGannon remarked that this issue has come before this Board numerous times and ample time was provided to obtain additional information. She commented that we rely on the various committees to obtain the necessary information and that the GSI Committee has done this.

At this point the Chairperson thanked the GSI Committee for their efforts and called for a vote on this agenda item.

MOVED (Crooks), seconded (Martin) to table to November. Motion Fails 1 (Crooks) – 5.

MOVED (Shapiro), seconded (Martin) to amend the bonding amount to \$310,000. Motion Carries 5 – 1 (Abstention Crooks)

Vote: Original Motion as Amended 5-0-1 (Abstention Crooks) Motion Carries

Item 10/09/02 WPCA Appropriation \$85,000.

From: 01022600-534402 Retained Earnings To: 20100000-58188 Capital Outlay

MOVED (Shapiro) and seconded (Tesoro)

Paul Kallmeyer, member of the WPCA Commission, conducted the presentation.

The purpose of the study was to ascertain, if a permit could be obtained for a new sewage treatment plant and if it would be a cost effective project for the Town of Trumbull. He provided a summary as to how the Consulting Service was chosen. Five firms were considered with bids ranging from \$37,750. to \$93,700. The WPCA voted to go with the firm of Wright Pierce at a cost of \$85,000. Mr. Kallmeyer made note that it was never required that the low bidder be taken for professional services and many times the Town has not. This firm had the experience and another important aspect was that they will bill as they proceed. If, as we progress, it is determined that a permit cannot be obtained then the project would cease and Wright Pierce would only bill for their time up to that point.

Marty Shapiro inquired what the cost savings would be, if the new wastewater plant is completed. Mr. Kallmeyer responded that he could not provide a figure at this time but that this is part of what this study will do. It will look at what it costs are now compared to what it will cost would be with our own treatment plant.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Kallmeyer estimated the length of time to complete the study to be approximately six months. At that time, we will know if it is a feasible and cost effective plan for the Town of Trumbull.

Bill Crooks inquired if Mr. Kallmeyer had a business relationship with any of the bidders. Paul Kallmeyer replied only with one but not with the one selected.

The Chairperson then called for a vote to authorize \$85,000.00 for this study.

Motion carried unanimously.

10/09/04 Presentation by Academic Challenge for Excellence Foundation

The presentation was conducted by Caroline Collins a member of the Board of the ACE foundation, Dr. Gary Cialfi and Dan Neumann. Information was provided as to the foundation's objectives and what they do to achieve those goals.

The ACE promotes activities that will motivate children to achieve excellence in academics and citizenship. Through these programs children develop a high level of confidence in their ability to function in school and society. The program includes children in all levels of the public school education system. They are now looking to expand their mission even further to include public service initiatives.

A question was asked as to what kind funding is received. Ms. Collins relayed that they are completely self-funded and rely on fundraising and private donations.

Inquiry was made if the programs could be made available to the private schools. Ms. Collins responded that at the present time they were not in a financial position to do so.

The Finance Board commended the ACE on the wonderful work their foundation has done.

The Chairperson informed that correspondence has been received from Chief of Police Kiely advising the Board that Tec Depot has donated six monitors to the Police Department.

There being no further business to discuss the October 15, 2009 meeting of the Board of Finance adjourned by 9:00 p.m. with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Granskog
Acting Clerk

