

BOARD OF FINANCE  
September 18, 2008  
MINUTES

Present: Martin Shapiro; Tom Tesoro; Joanna Bruner (for Kathy McGannon); William Crooks; Mark Smith; Kenny Martin

Also Present: Ray Baldwin, First Selectman; Lynn Heim, Director of Finance; Dan Schopick, Town Attorney; Anthony Musto, Town Treasurer

Vice Chairman Martin Shapiro called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:05 p.m. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our servicemen and women stationed around the world.

Martin Shapiro announced that Joanna Bruner will be sitting in for Kathy McGannon as a voting member. He also acknowledged receipt of Alex Robinson's letter of resignation as an alternate member of the Board of Finance. We thank her for her years of service to the town as a member of the Board of Finance.

Public Comments:

Lainie McHugh...in support of the BOE's request for a supplemental appropriation to restore class size and supports restoration of school building usage and middle school activities.

Robin Diamond...Cheerleading Coordinator for Pop Warner Cheerleaders...The cuts that were made for use of the school building for practice hampers practice time for the cheerleaders. Anything that can be done would be greatly appreciated.

Greg Butcaris...Vice President Trumbull High Football Touchdown Club...greatly need funds to be restored to sophomore football. Ten thousand dollars would help to fund eight games (4 at home, 4 away).

Scott Kerr...believes that the school buildings are a great town asset and that organizations such as the boy scouts should be able to get the maximum use of the buildings. The BOE holds the Charter for the Boy Scouts of America, and are suppose to provide a place for them to meet.

Kate Trapman...spoke in support of girls' hockey. Funds have been cut for the girls' team while the boys get support.

John Zimmerman and Frank Cioffi...part of the leadership of 50 boys in the Jane Ryan Boy Scouts Club Pack 64. We are aware of the issues surrounding the usage of the school buildings at night; however, the cub scouts are unable to hold their family pack meetings at the school. These monthly meetings are an integral part of scouting.

Rich Joy...would like to ask that the Board do what they can to keep the schools opened.

Tina Barber...spoke in behalf of the sophomore football team. Would like to have the money restored to keep this team going.

Joan Zimmerman...requests approval of restoring funding for school building use.

Cindy Katske...supports BOE request for funding.

John Mark...Use of high school by outside organizations will adversely effect the high school if continued to be used for elementary events.

Theresa Panciello...supports BOE funding request.

Tony D'Aquila...fully supports the concept of public schools being used during evening hours. He proposes that a users' fee be charged to the various organizations for building use.

Susan Gilson...fully supports the middle school athletic activities that have been cut.

David Reel...he has gone through the THS sophomore program and ask that the Board reconsider putting funds back into that program.

Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2008 as presented...(Tesoro) moved; seconded by (Bruner). Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2008 as presented...(Tesoro) moved; (Smith) seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 (Ken Martin recused himself as he was not present at that meeting).

Correspondence: Letter received from Alan Finkenauer praising the work done by Lynn Scully, our Internal Auditor on various projects.

Letter received from Al Barbarotta pertaining to the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting on the funding of the Jane Ryan Elementary School Roof Replacement project. At that meeting Mr. Crooks raised a question regarding filing requirements. Mr. Barbarotta presented us with a copy of Chapter 173, Section 10-283, page 6 of 13, item 3B-b of the General Assemble Bill pointing out that there is a particular deadline thereby answering Mr. Crooks' question.

Treasurer's Report...Anthony Musto, Treasurer...Things are still going well. Obviously, interest rates are down. We are still doing our best to keep our rates up.

Matt Spoerndle, our financial advisor, stated to the Board that we did very well in the refinancing of our bonds. The timing was right. Nine competitive bids were received.

9-08-01...BOE...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$280,664 to 01060000-522205 Program Expense.

It was moved by (Tesoro); seconded by (Bruner).

Ralph Iassogna and Steve Wright were present to answer questions.

The Board of Ed's original request was for \$280,664. Earlier on Tuesday, before the Board of Finance meeting, the request was reduced to \$56,000. Mr. Iassogna stated that they were able now to reduce the request an additional \$7,000 reducing the request to \$49,000 as follows: \$25,000, restore building usage; \$9,000 Middle Schools Sports Activities; \$10,000 sophomore football; and \$5,000 Channel 17 coverage of school events.

(Crooks) moved to reduce the appropriation to \$49,000 based upon the numbers presented by the Superintendent; seconded by (Tesoro). Motion carried unanimously.

(Crooks) said he was concerned about additional requests being made for more help. He would entertain future requests in the spring when there is a bigger picture of what the pluses and minuses are. Then come to the Board early enough and not wait until June with a request.

(Martin) moved to divide question into four separate items and discuss them individually; seconded by (Tesoro).

(Shapiro) noted that any monies that go to the BOE is in one lump sum and may be used as we request or as they determine. It is not an unreasonable request to ask that the BOE reassess the budget amounts as the year goes on. (Shapiro) suggested that the BOE find the \$49,000 in their budget, document it in a letter of this board and open up the schools, return the programs deemed necessary while keeping this board informed. Come spring if there is a problem, this board will make it whole.

Motion carries 4 – 2 (Shapiro, Crooks)

All those in favor of spending \$25,000 to restore building usage. Motion fails 2 (Tesoro, Martin); 4

All those in favor of spending \$9,000 to provide middle schools' sports activities; Motion fails 2 (Tesoro, Martin); 4

All those in favor of spending \$5,000 to provide increase for Channel 17 coverage of school events; Motion fails 6 – 0

All those in favor of spending \$10,000 for sophomore football; Motion fails 1 (Tesoro); 5.

9-08-02...Public Works...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$20,000 to 01030105-522205 Program Expense for the purpose of transferring for disbursement over a two year period the local match of the design phase of rails to trails pedestrian/bike path.

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Crooks).

Present for discussion was Theo Samadjopoulos, Engineer

It was moved by (Martin); seconded by (Shapiro) to table until we have a better understanding if there will be other towns participating.

Motion to table carries unanimously.

Motion made to take 9-08-29 out of order made by (Tesoro); seconded by (Martin). Motion carries unanimously.

9-08-29...Social Services...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$20,000 to 72130078-430000 Emergency Fund to provide funds for "Project Heat"- Heating and Energy Assistance for Trumbull Residents.

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Martin)

F/S Ray Baldwin and Jennifer Gillis, Social Services were present for discussion.

Currently there are three groups that offer assistance to residents for emergency use. They are ABCD, state program; Operation Fuel; and Private Donations from individuals and/or corporations. The program being presented tonight is Project Heat (Heating and Energy Assistance for Trumbull) for Trumbull residents. This will provide matching funds for fuel assistance to Trumbull residents.

Recess 10:05 – 10:15 p.m.

9-08-03...Tax Assessor...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$75 to 01011600-556601 Seminar to cover Tax Assessor's attendance at the CAAO Fall Symposium and registration for the C.C.M.A. II Exam.

(Crooks) moved to amend appropriation to a Transfer from 01011600-501105 Salaries-OT to 01011600-556601 Professional Development; seconded by (Smith).

Motion in favor of amendment carries 6 – 0.

Motion as amended carries unanimously 6 – 0

9-08-04...Conservation...Transfer from 01015400-556604 Publications the sum of \$85 to 01015400-556602 Association Dues (CT Assn. of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions \$60; CT Assn. of Wetland Scientists \$25).

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Smith) to approve.

Motion carried unanimously.

9-08-05...Library...Transfer from 01070000-578801 Mntnce Rep.-Cont., \$348 and 01070000-589901 Annual Rentals, \$10 to 01070000-578802 Mntnce Rep.Eq/Bldg. \$348 and 01070000-522205 Program Expense \$10 to cover year end transfers.

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Smith) to approve.

Motion carried unanimously.

9-08-06...Parks...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$18,639.14 to 43120000-450000 Park Land Trust for interest distribution to be paid to the Park Land Trust Fund.

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Bruner)

This was for interest that was accrued from the sale of two houses from the State of CT Parkland Exchange to be spent on long-range capital improvements in accordance with a priority listing to be established by the Park Commission. The balance as of June 30, 2000 in the account was \$71,981. It was discovered that interest had not been applied since 2000 as the fund has been invested with the General Funds over that period. The D/F has determined that the interest would be \$18,639.14, therefore a request is being made to transfer that amount to the Park Land Trust Account.

(Crooks) questioned that without Town Council approval, the establishment of the corpus/trust does the Park Department have the right to use funds from it for park purposes?

Board requested that the Town Attorney review the trust fund to see if the income gained was to be used only for park purposes.

Motion made by (Tesoro); seconded by (Crooks) to postpone to a time certain, the November meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made to add additional item to the agenda by (Tesoro); seconded by (Crooks) Two-thirds vote needed. Motion carried unanimously.

9/08/30...W.P.C.A...Appropriate from Account 20-315100 Retained Earnings the sum of \$47,000 to 20100000-522204 SVC-Contrs to cover consultation fee to environmental Engineering Company Eric Muir,P.E.

It was moved (Tesoro); seconded (Crooks).

Joseph Solomene was present for discussion.

The State DEP had issued a Notice of Violation mandating the W.P.C.A. to conduct an Infiltration and Inflow Study. They required that action be taken within 30 days or Civil penalties of up to \$25,000 could be assessed. Two environmental engineering consultant companies had been interviewed and the W.P.C.A. accepted Malcolm Pirnie's proposal for \$47,000. Eric Muir, the project manager accompanied Joe Solomene to a DEP hearing in Hartford. The meeting was effective in persuading the state that Trumbull was sincere in finding a solution to an inflow problem allowing time to find the source of the flow increase.

Motion carried unanimously.

9/08/29...continued...Director of Finance reported that as of 2007/2008, the balance in the Social Services Emergency Fund is \$10,540.

Motion carries 5 – 0 – 1 (Crooks)

9/08/07 – 9/08/28...Motion made to approve transfers and appropriations as attached. (Tesoro); seconded by (Bruner).

Motion made by (Tesoro); seconded by (Crooks) to amend by adding Transfer from Parks 01080600-589901 the sum of \$159 and 01080600-581888 the sum of \$3,670 to Parks 01080600-534402 the sum of \$3,829. These funds are required for landscaping supplies.

Amendment carries 6 – 0.

Amended motion carries 6 – 0

Tesoro moved to adjourn; seconded by Bruner.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bokine  
Clerk