

BOARD OF FINANCE

April 8, 2010

Minutes

The Board of Finance of the Town of Trumbull held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2010 in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Members Present: Ken Martin, Chairman; Mark Smith; William Crooks; Andrew Palo; Tom Tesoro; Steve Lupien and alternates Alex Remson; Dana Misner; Perry Molinoff

Also Present: Maria Pires, D/F

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ken Martin. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes of February 11 and March 9, 2010....

Lupien moved to approve minutes of February 11, 2010; seconded by Crooks. Motion carried unanimously.

Tesoro moved to approve minutes of March 9, 2010; seconded by Smith. Martin moved to amend page 10, second paragraph down by adding KMartin does not feel this is a good number. *The number that we came to was out of necessity because of the financial situation we are in...*

Crooks moved to approve amendment as made by Martin; seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes as amended of March 9, 2010 carried unanimously.

4/10/01...BOE...TEA Negotiations...Present were Atty. Floyd Dugas, Supt. Ralph Iassogna. Mr. Dugas explained that under the TEA, the BOE is required to meet with the Board of Finance to offer them the opportunity to provide input prior to their going into negotiations with the teachers. The other thing is to give the Board of Finance the right to select a member of the Board to be part of the Board Negotiating Team and attend the negotiations as an observer.

Under the statute Teachers' Negotiation Act, we must commence negotiations no later than June 12<sup>th</sup>. If we don't have an agreement, we are required to go to mediation by August 1<sup>st</sup> and if that doesn't result in an agreement, we are in arbitration by August 26<sup>th</sup>.

A few weeks ago the strategy for having an executive session to discuss negotiations has been changed and what is done now is to adjourn or recess and have a "non meeting."

Motion made by Crooks; seconded by Smith to call for a recess at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of having a "non meeting". Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:50 p.m. recess was over and the regular meeting continued.

Financial Accounting Control Analyst James Henderson was introduced to the Board and welcomed. Crooks asked if we would see some operating plan at next month's meeting or should it be the month after that. Martin said this is an introduction meeting. He further stated that the Board would like a more structured/document reports, comments at our next session, a report that we could probably amend or tweak.

4/10/02...Tax Collector...Suspense List...Mary Moran, Tax Collector was present. These are accounts that we believe are uncollectible and should no longer be reflected as an asset of the Town. These include motor vehicles, supplemental motor vehicles and personal property only. It does not include real estate. The policy is to put all accounts that are over two years old in suspense. Also included are those accounts which we have information that they are deceased or businesses that have ceased operation. These accounts were all previously suspended and are collectible for fifteen years from due date.

The list of uncollectible taxes for transfer to the suspense tax book for Tax Year 2006 totals are Personal Property \$54,749.94; Motor Vehicles \$122,875.85 = Grand Total \$177,625.79.

Motion made to approve the suspense list and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Suspense List in the amount of \$177,625.79 as presented made by Smith; seconded by Crooks.

Motion carried unanimously.

4/10/03...EMS...Appropriate from Available General Fund Balance the sum of \$60,000 to Account 01022600-501102 Salaries-PT to cover remainder of projected payroll through June 30, 2010. Barbara Crandall present for discussion.

It was moved Smith; seconded by Tesoro.

Crandall explained that this money had been removed from the 2009-2010 budget by the First Selectman. As of February 3rd, there is \$21,428 left in the 501102 account. We are therefore requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$60,000 to cover the remainder of the projected payroll through June 30, 2010. Crooks stated that since the letter we received was dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>, he asked Maria to go over the numbers and to project the amount out to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The projections we did strongly suggest that the amount that we need should be increased by another \$5,000.

Crooks moved to amend the requested amount to \$65,000 from \$60,000, an increase of \$5,000; seconded by Tesoro. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

4/10/04...Town Hall...Appropriate from Available General Fund Balance the sum of \$9,000 to Account 01013800-578801 Maintenance Contracts for Public Access Defibrillator Program for the Town of Trumbull. Patrice Sulik, Health Director was present for discussion.

It was moved by Smith; seconded by Tesoro.

Sulik stated the money being requested is to keep the Access Defibrillator Program going. The Health District coordinates the PAD for the Town but does not run the budget nor does it have the ability to authorize funds for AED or AED replacements. Current management program expires in May 2010. Public Act 09-94 requires that on and after July 1, 2010 each school under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education must have an AED as well as school personnel trained in its use. The \$9,000 will enable Sulik to sign a five year contract with a management company that has a computer data base so that these AEDs can be maintained and managed proactively rather than after the fact. This is only for the maintenance contract. In order to be in compliance with the statute, we would need to put AEDs into the six schools that have none. The cost for these additional AEDs is \$12,000.

Crooks wonders if this is something that the Council should consider and that perhaps a policy should be put into effect to decide if the program in part or in its entirety would still be coordinated by the Health District; determine the costs between the BOE and the Town; provide certificates of staff and volunteers; and documentation of certified individuals needs to be conducted.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### TRANSFERS:

4/10/05...First Selectman...From: 01010400-501101 the sum of \$10,450 TO 01010400-522202 Prof. Serv. \$1,250, 01010400-501102 Salaries-PT \$9,200...To assist in writing grant of 911 regionalization and replacing a full-time person with a part-time person.

It was moved by Smith; seconded by Tesoro. Motion carried unanimously.

4/10/06...Finance...From: 01011000-501101 Salaries-FT the sum of \$22,075; from 01011000-556604 Prof. Dev. Publication the sum of \$44 TO Account 01011000-501103 Salaries-Seasonal \$12,600 and 01011000-522202 Prof. Services \$9,475 and 01011000-567704 Transp-Expense Acct. \$44... To hire a seasonal employee and a consultant to assist due to vacancy of Asst. Finance Director and to cover deficit in expense account.

It was moved by Smith; seconded by Palo. Motion carried unanimously.

4/10/07...Board of Finance...From: 01011400-522201 Clerical Fees the sum of \$123 TO Account 01011400-545501 Legal Notices \$123. )  
4/10/08...Tax Collector...From: 01012000-556604 Professional-Publication the sum of \$220 TO Account 01012000-556601 Prof. Dev.-Seminars \$220. )  
4/10/09...Town Attorneys...From: 01022800-556601 Prof. Dev.-Seminars the sum of \$32 TO Account 01022800-556604 Prof . Dev-Publications \$32. )

It was moved by Smith to approve 4/10/07, 4/10/08, 4/10/09 as presented; seconded by Lupien. Motion carried unanimously.

4/10/10...Discussion: Hillcrest Pool Locker Room

Tesoro asked if there were any plans done for this project. D/F said the plans were done by the engineer in the department. Tesoro asked if these plans were approved by an architect. Is it general practice to do modifications in our public schools without architects input. D/F answered not if it is an emergency situation. Tesoro asked who determines if this was an emergency situation. It was determined by the First Selectman after the parents made complaints to him. The parents complained that the school was not secure and that generated the closing of the building. What determined that fixing this without architectural drawings was an emergency measure. Tesoro has a real problem with the process here. Who authorized the overtime for the BOE; who authorized the time frame to get this done requiring this overtime. This appears to be a project that has no controls on it whatsoever. There is no checks or balances with respect to this.

Tesoro request through the Chair that Mr. Henderson look into this so that we can actually see what process was followed.

Palo would like to know whose responsibility it is, the BOE or the Town. D/F stated that back in 2006 the BOE requested a bond issue for emergency items and one of these items was the pool.

4/10/11...Town Attorneys...Appropriate from Available General Fund Balance the sum of \$30,000 to Account 01012800-522202 Service & Fees for legal and ancillary services regarding the Town's opposition to the proposed fuel cell/power plant on Huntington Turnpike/Primrose Drive.

It was moved by Smith; seconded by Tesoro.

The Chair stated this particular supplemental is for legal and ancillary services relating to the Fuel Cell in Nichols. A few emails have been received stating that the Board of Finance was opposed to supporting the opposition to the fuel cell. The First Selectman should be commended for organizing this process for supplying legal counsel for this fight.

There has been a request from one member of the Board of Finance asking for supporting data. The Chair forwarded this request to the First Selectman's office. The First

Selectman mailed this out to a group of people who are very emotionally involved in this project stating that the BOF didn't support the opposition to the fuel cell. This only added more stress to local Nichols residents.

Lupien read into the record his email that was sent out to the residents.

"Through the Chair, I respectfully ask that we be provided additional backup to support this request. In particular....the current balance of this item; a detail of all the expenditures against this line item to date; a detail of all direct and indirect costs this administration has incurred in dealing with the issue.

"...Please note the timing of this request is unacceptable, having received it the afternoon intermediately preceding our meeting and with no backup".

No where in that email did it say how he was going to vote.

Incidentally the backup requested came from the attorney dated April 8<sup>th</sup> so it didn't exist at the time the request was made.

Also, for the record, Mr. Lupien read the following excerpts from a letter to Chairman Martin from F/S Herbst.

"This letter is being written in response to e-mail correspondence that was forwarded to me by our Director of Finance, Maria Pires. It appears that the Board of Finance member Steve Lupien has questioned the appropriateness of my request for a supplemental appropriation to hire special counsel to represent the Town of Trumbull before the Connecticut Siting Council..."

I would think my email at all questions the appropriateness. He continues...

"While Mr. Lupien has indicated "that the timing of this request is unacceptable", I must emphatically disagree. While I recognize that this request came with short notice before your scheduled meeting, the Board of Finance must understand the nature of the circumstances surrounding the immediacy of this request. Things are moving at a fast pace and we must be proactive, rather than reactive."

Lupien stated that he agrees that things are moving quickly but he sincerely doubts that any attorney would stop working between the time his request was made and tonight's meeting.

The letter further goes on to say "People have crossed party lines to support the Town's efforts to fight this Fuel Cell application and defend the town's best interests. Now is not the time to play politics with such a highly sensitive and critical issue of paramount importance to the people of Trumbull."

Lupien stated for the record that he is 100% opposed to this facility as most of us are. It is the First Selectman that is playing politics with this with his heavy handed and

immature response to realistic Board of Finance questions. Further, Lupien stated he did not like the First Selectman playing on the emotions of the people in Nichols for his personal political gain.

Palo as well as Remson thought that Lupien's questions were justified. They also are opposed to this facility being built.

Crooks asked if this appropriation were approved tonight, when would it be on the Town Council's agenda? Crooks would not be adversed to a special meeting being held to further answer the questions they might have.

Smith said we don't know what the strategy is or the cost of the strategy. We need to get the parties on our team in here and discuss who is involved, what is it going to take, what is the cost?

Martin would support a special meeting next week – he doesn't want to put it off any longer. D/F stated there is money in the salary account that we can use until we determine how much it is going to cost.

For the record Tesoro supports this and more importantly as a Trumbull resident, he supports the people of Nichols in their fight against this particular project.

Motion made by Smith; seconded by Tesoro to table 4-10-11 for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 for a time period of fourteen days or sooner. Motion passed unanimously.

Crooks stated that for the record he also supports this project.

Motion to adjourn (Smith); seconded (Tesoro).

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bokine, Clerk