

Unapproved

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 9, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Eckart, C
Freiert, K.
Griggs, J
Householder, G.
Lyden, K. (Alternate)
Pech, G. (Alternate)
Preston, G.
Weinschenker, W.

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Weinschenker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: N/A

SEAT ALTERNATE: N/A

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Review Public Hearing Comments

AGENDA:

- 1) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 19, 2009 - Special Meeting
March 26, 2009 - Special Meeting

March 19 Special Meeting

A request was made to change the word "but" to "put" on page 6. Motion to approve the March 12th minutes was made by K. Freiert not K. Lyden.

M/S/C (Griggs/Freiert) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 19, 2009 as amended.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

March 26th Special Meeting

G. Householder requested to change the wording "followed by" to "then".

M/S/C (Householder/Griggs) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 26, 2009 as amended.

Yes: (5) Eckart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
No: (0)
Abstain: (1) Freiert
Motion carried.

2) TREASURER'S REPORTS (Packet Included with minutes)

- REVENUE SUMMARY

Treasurer K. Siebert reviewed the March 2009 revenues. We received two grants, one from the Pequot/Mohegan and reimbursement from the Multi-Purpose Path. Total revenue is lower than other years, but we also increase the budgeted amount. The TAR (LOCIP) money has not been transferred for the 08/09 budget year. The money available for the 2009/2010 budget is \$43,000. K. Siebert suggested leaving some money in this account to keep it open. It was agreed to keep \$250 in this account.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS - N/A

4) SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Selectman Ross noted that the \$10,000 Historic Grant was approved. Mr. Ross also gave an update on the progress of the uses of the purchase order system. Chairman Weinschenker noticed the encumbrances on the expense report. Selectman Ross stated that the town of Lebanon approved the purchase of the ladder truck and if the Town of Salem approves the sale at the April 16th meeting, Lebanon will present the check to Salem after the meeting. The Annual Report is ready for the BOF to review. The BOF unanimously decided to dedicate this Annual Report to Ruth Cole-Chu. It was noted that Sue Spang did a great job in organizing this report.

M/S/C (Griggs/Householder) to dedicate the 2007/2008 Annual Report in the memory of Ruth Cole-Chu.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

Chairman Weinschenker asked the members of the BOF for their comments on the April 8th, Public Hearing. Everyone was pleased with the turnout by the town's people. The 2009/2010 proposed budget certainly stimulated public interest. It was clear what line items were very important and what items were requested to be restored to the budget. The question is expenses versus increase in taxes. Salaries of school staff/class sizes versus cuts to extracurricular activities were a hot topic along with restoring weekend use of the school and adding money back to the SRA program in the recreation department. Also addressed was the request of restoring the 2nd full time Resident Trooper to Dept #210. There was an outcry of concern for safety in the town.

5) CONSIDER ITEMS FROM THE APRIL 8TH PUBLIC HEARING

REVENUES

The BOF agreed that the concern with the proposed budget was not the expense side but with the revenue side.

Kim Siebert asked that the revenue from the STEAP Grant for the Transfer Station and Multi-purpose Path be moved to Miscellaneous in Dept # 92 - State/Federal Grants.

Adjustments to this department were made in TAR and Miscellaneous lines. It was noted that \$13,524 of the \$50,000 was received in this year's budget for the Multi-purpose path.

Revenues in Dept #94 - Licenses & Permits were adjusted to reduce the Conveyance and Building lines.

Voluntary Cuts to the Budget

- #230 Ambulance

M/S/C (Preston/Freiert) to reduce line 230-95-960, Uniform to 1,650, a reduction of \$1,150.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

- #222 Salem Fire Department

M/S/C (Preston/Freiert) to accept modifications to Dept #222 - Salem Fire Dept. to reflect the new department total of \$63,596.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

- #610 Inland Wetlands/CC

M/S/C (Griggs/Householder) to accept the modifications as presented by IWCC, adjusting the department's total to \$4,300.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

G. Householder expressed his thanks to the department that voluntarily made extra cuts.

Public Hearing - Department Expenses

- #210 Security

The elimination of a Resident Trooper from the 2009/2010 budget was discussed in length at the public hearing. The Selectman Ross also mentioned that he received many phone calls about this same topic.

M/S/C (Freiert/Preston) Dept #210 -to return \$41,227 back to line 210-10-101 changing the dept total to \$204,150.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

- **#645 - Recreation Dept.**

The discussion started with the concern that the school would not be open for SRA program due to the fact the BOE cut the expense of the weekend custodian from their budget. This will have a great impact on the SRA programs. The concern of the BOF is that the town budget cannot pay for school employees. A new line item was created in Dept #645 called Weekend School Access. It was the understanding of the BOF that the BOE stated that they would use these funds for the weekend custodian. The original reduction of \$4,000 from this budget was also discussed. It was agreed that a 20% cut would be adjusted to 2%, restoring \$3,450 back to this department.

M/S/C (Freiert/Householder) to restore \$3,450 - #645 Recreation Dept-increasing line item 645-80-206 SRA by \$3,000 and line # 645-90-402 Holiday Activities by \$450.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

M/S/C (Freiert/Eckart) to increase Dept #645 - by adding a new line item "Weekend School Access" opening in the amount of \$5,800.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

- **BOE Budget**

The BOF discussed the need to restore money to the BOE for extracurricular activities. Adding back the late bus was a concern. There was much debate about how to and how much to add to the BOE budget. It was noted that the BOF can only add to the total BOE budget not to individual lines. The BOF can only make suggestions as to what programs it would like the restored money to go to.

M/S/C (Griggs/Eckart) to restore \$24,000 to the BOE 2009/2010 Budget.

Yes: (3) Eckart, Griggs, Householder

No: (3) Freiert, Preston, Weinschenker

Motion failed.

M/S/C (Freiert/Householder) to restore \$17,000 to the BOE 2009/2010 Budget.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

- **Capital Item for Road repair**

The BOF discussed the harsh winter and the effect that this had on the town's roads. There is much confusion on the use of the 930- Highway Rehabilitation and how this is used. At the Public Hearing the discussion was about restoring the \$45,000 to this department. D. Bourdeau stated that the Capital line is used for any major repairs like resealing lines and dept. #310 is used for patching.

- **#930-SVFCO SBCA**

G. Maiorano gave the BOF information on purchasing the SCBA items over 4 years. Chairman Weinschenker informed the BOF, that according to the Charter, anytime an item is purchased over multiple years, it needs approval at a town meeting.

Gene would have to go to the BOS first and than a town meeting for approval.

No adjustments to capital items were made.

- **#930 Capital 2008/2009**

Selectman Ross informed the BOF that the town will not be purchasing the PW Pickup Truck that is in the 2008/2009 budget year's Capital Budget. This money will be returned to the town at the end of the budget year.

- **Approval of Budget as adjusted.**

M/S/C (Freiert/Preston) to accept the 2009/2010 year Budget as follows:

General Government	\$ 3,215,477
Board of Education	\$10,012,385
Capital	<u>\$ 649,985</u>
Total	\$13,877,847

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

BOF discussed having two question placed on the ballot for the referendum on May 13th.

- 1) Is the BOE budget to high?
- 2) Is the General Government budget to high?

M/S/C (Freiert/Householder) to go into Executive session at 9:54 p.m. to discuss proposals from Auditors.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

Present at Executive Session: Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Lyden, Pech, Preston, Weinschenker

Present at the BOF's pleasure: V. Casey, Recording Secretary

M/S/C (Freiert/Griggs) to come out of Executive session at 10:13 p.m.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

NO ACTION TAKEN

M/S/C (Eckart/Preston) to adjourn at 10:14 p.m.

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

Virginia Casey

Recording Secretary, BOF