

Approved

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 19, 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 7:04p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS - N/A
SEAT ALTERNATE IF NEEDED - N/A

AGENDA:

1.) APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 12, 2009 MINUTES

The following amendments to the minutes were noted:

- The spelling of C. Eckart name needs to be corrected.
- Under the Treasurer's Report it should read C. Philopena reported that there should not be any problem collecting the 97%.
- Under item #6, the Selectman report, the word transit should read transfer station.
- Review/Act on budget should be item #7 not #6.

M/S/C (Freiert/Preston) to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2009 regular meeting as amended.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

ABSTAIN: (1) Griggs

Motion carried.

2.) REVIEW/ACT ON BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2009/2010 FY.

TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Library Shelving Unit - This was tabled waiting for more explanation. Judy Rabe informed the board that she has obtained a new quote of \$4,892. This is the same unit but with a detachable top half.

M/S/C (Freiert/Preston) to approve Dept #930- Library Shelving Unit, in the amount of \$5,000 for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (5) Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Abstain: (1) Eckart

Motion carried.

- B. Alarm Monitoring System - This is for a new alarm/fire/bugler system for the TOB, PW and Library to offer better monitoring of the town's assets. Discussed followed about funding a portion of this system in the 2008/2009 budget. D. Bourdeau gave the BOF a break down on the different cost for each building.

M/S/C (Griggs/Householder) to approve Dept #930- Alarm Monitoring System, in the amount of \$12,000, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Assessor's Mapping Upgrade

N. Wood was given a quote for upgrading his mapping system. A contractual service will come in to do the upgrading. G. Preston believes that this should not be in the capital line budget, but in Dept #116. G. Householder suggested that N. Wood come with more information about this item. (proposal) There is time for this item to be added.

M/S/C (Preston/Householder) to strike from Dept #930- Assessor's Mapping Upgrade, in the amount of \$4,000.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

D. #926 Open Space Land Acquisition

This item was tabled while the review of department budgets and revenue information for the 2009/2010 year to see if there would be any funds available for this dept. It was suggested that a \$1 be placed in this line item for the 2009/2010 budget.

M/S/C (Preston/Griggs) to approve Dept 930-95-10 Open Space Land Acquisition, in the amount of \$1, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

1. Finalize Budget 2009/2010 Year

- Chairman Weinschenker asked the BOF to look at the Finance pages. He stated as the budget stands now, the Mil rate would increase to 24.91.
- Chairman Weinschenker polled the BOF members concerning revenue and expenses in the 2009/2010-budget year. The overall sentiment of the members was zero to no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ % increase to the mil rate for the 2009/2010 budget year. K. Lyden stated that decreases in the department budgets are the responsibility of the BOS/First Selectman. The BOF responsibility is the Capital Account. The undesignated fund's percentage is below the recommendation of the auditors. K. Lyden informed the BOF that this percentage is 7.8%.
- B. Weinschenker summarized the budget proposals by acknowledging the reasonable proposals by the departments, the unexpected low growth of the grand list and the loss of revenue.
- G. Householder suggested that the amount in the capital line item SVFC SCBA be looked at. He suggested that this purchase be financed over several years. He would like to see this line item reduced to \$18,000. G. Preston asked if the Capital Reserve Fund could be used for this item. It was agreed to keep the SCBA funding for this line item at \$50,000, until Gene Maiorano can obtain more information on financing this equipment.

FINALIZE BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

The BOF reviewed all items in the Capital Department, starting with the first item.

1. Highway Rehabilitation

M/S/C (Preston/Eckart) to approve Dept 930-310-004 Highway Rehabilitation, in the amount of \$254,000, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

2. PW International Plow/Dump Truck

D. Bourdeau was asked to look into a lease for a truck to lower the initial request of \$135,000 from capital. D. Bourdeau informed the BOF that there will be an increase in purchasing trucks as of July 1st because of new regulations placed on all new trucks. G. Householder was concerned about shifting capital projects to 2010/2011 with the school project coming up.

M/S/C (Freiert/Preston) to approve -Dept 930- PW International Plow/Dump truck, in the amount of \$ 35,000, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

3. School Parking Lot repair

G. Preston summarized the line item which is to reseal and asphalt parking lots. Chairman Weinschenker was concerned was that this item may be included in the projected school renovation project.

M/S/C (Freiert/Eckart) to amend the line item Dept #930 Parking Lot Repair to from \$17,000 to zero, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

The consensus of the BOF was to leave the repair and replacement of the doors at the school in the capital plan.

4. Garden Lake Meeting house repairs.

G. Preston just wanted to acknowledge J. Savalle for coming up with an economic way to get this job done.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to change Dept #930 Meeting House Repairs, from 15,875 to zero.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Garden Lake Engine Repair.

G. Preston just wanted to acknowledge the great job J. Savalle did in coming up with away to get this job done with volunteers.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to decrease this line item - Dept #930- Engine Bay Repair, in the amount of 4,000, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (0)

NO: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

Motion failed.

6. Zero Turn Mower

This mower is a replacement mower. Discussion followed. There are a number of fields to be mowed. Since there is an increase in the number of fields to be mowed, this expense was left in the capital budget.

Carole informed the BOF that a total of \$188,230 was taken from the capital budget.

- At this point there is a need to cut \$133,000 from the Town and \$372,000 from the school.
- It was suggested that the BOF look at the revenue side of the budget. In dept 92- LOCIP -Town Aid (TAR) Fund could be applies. This is a 3 year revenue item. The current fund is at \$139,000.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to increase line item - 92-200-0001, by \$50,000 to the amount of 121,020.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Weinschenker asked if the BOF should review each department's expenses and base the cuts on a percentage. Discussion followed and it was agreed to review all the budgets except the ones that the First Selectman is responsible for.

The Public hearing is scheduled for April 8th and the budget needs to be published a week before this meeting.

Bob Ross stated that this budget is at a bare minimum and it would be unrealistic to cut anymore from the departments. The only place left to cut will be staff and services. Bob made the statement that the budget, as it stands, has an increase of \$82,000 and the BOF is asking to cut \$123,000.

Selectman Ross expressed his concern with the STEAP grant not being put back into revenue, this project will be completed during next year's budget. It was agreed that miscellaneous be increase to \$305,000. This amount was adjusted for receiving the Transfer Station STEAP grant and the Multi-purpose Path grant. Members of the BOF voiced their concern about when if the money would be receiving in the 2009/2010 year.

It was agreed to increase the undesignated fund by \$239,000.

The departments that will be reviewed at this time are as follows:

Departments 110, 112,116,118, 122,158,210,220, 222, 230,600,610,630,645.

G, Pech asked if the Capital Reserve dollars could be used for items in the budget.

G. Householder explained that this fund is used for emergencies

a) #935 Revaluation

M/S/C (Freiert/Householder) to change line item 935 Revaluation—from \$5,000 to Zero in the 2009/2010 Budget year.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

b) #645 Recreation

Preston discussed the SRA line for \$12,000 for league expenses. Preston would like the SRA to go to " pay as you play" fees. Preston would like to cut this line item in half. J. Griggs is concerned with families that will be unable to pay.

M/S/C (Freiert/Householder) to reduce Dept #635 Recreation- by \$4,000 to be presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (5), Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (1) Eckart
Motion carried.

c) #112 Town Clerk

M/S/C (Preston/Eckart) to take \$500 from line item #112-95-954
Conferrnce/Mileage/Dues making this line amount \$1,165 for presentation at the
public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

d) #116 Assessor

M/S/C (Freiart/Householder) reduce \$400 from Dept #116 making this department
amount \$8,750 for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

e) BOE Budget

M/S/C (Freiart/Eckart) to reduce the BOE budget by \$240,000 for presentation at
the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

f) #158 Library

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to cut Dept #158 Library by \$200, for presentation at
the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (5) Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: ()

Abstain: (1) Eckart

Motion carried.

g) #220 Garden Lake Fire Dept

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to reduce Dept #220 from \$57,991 to \$57,350 and to change the spelling of the word Professional, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

h) #222 Salem Fire Department

M/S/C (Householder/Griggs) to reduce the Dept #222 Salem Fire Dept to \$64,800 which is a difference of \$796 for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

i) #240 Public Safety

M/S/C (Householder/Griggs) to reduce the Dept #240 Public Safety by \$381 to \$57,500 which is for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: ()

Motion carried unanimously.

j) First Selectman's Department Budgets

The BOF discussed the Selectman's budget and how it should be handled. It was the consensus of the BOF that the selection would reduce this budget by a total of \$74,000 as the BOS recommends.

Freiart discussed the sale of the fire truck and the revenue that will be realized from this sale. He suggested that the BOE be aware of the possibility of an extra \$30,000 from this revenue.

10 year meets the town charter and is ready to present at the public hearing

The BOF schedule an extra special meeting on Thursday 3/26 at 7:30 next to finalized the budget for presentation at the April 8th public hearing.

M/S/C (Griggs/Eckart) to adjourn at 11:10 p.m.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Freiert, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously

VIRGINIA CASEY
Recording Secretary