

Approved

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Freiert, K.
Lyden, K. (Alternate)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Weinschenker called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

M/S/C (Householder/Pech) to seat G. Pech in place of K. Freiert

VOTE: YES: (5) Eckart, Householder, Griggs, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

1.) Review/act on budget requests for 2009/2010 FY.

a.) #116 - Assessor (Material included with minutes)

The board discussed the increases and the licensing of the GIS system in the Assessor's dept. The Board asked Norm if the licensing could be share with other towns and the necessity of 2-5 users.

Discussion followed on these issues.

M/S/C (Preston/Householder) to approve Dept. 116 - Assessor - in the amount of \$9,150, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Griggs, Householder, Pech, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

b.) #122 - Registrar/Elections

Sue Spang informed the board that this department, in the past, was reimbursed for ballots. She was just informed that this would not be the case in the 2009/2010 year. This is lost revenue. The board inquired about spending to date. Sue reminded the board that the town still has a referendum to consider in this years budget.

M/S/C (Eckart/Pech) to approve Dept. 122 - Registrar/Elections - in the amount of \$10,700, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

c.) #142 - Probate Court (Letter included with minutes)

Atty Butts discussed a need to increase his budget. He stated in the past he was able to do his job with supplies and equipment at no cost to the town. This is no longer the case. He is asking for a Laserfiche program that will link his computer to a statewide system. Hardware is \$652 for three years and an annual cost of \$1,355.64.

M/S/C (Householder/Griggs) to approve Dept. 142 - Probate Court - in the amount of \$2,808 subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

d.) #158 - Library

Judy Rabe presented Dept #158 - Library budget - to the board. She answered questions from the board regarding increases and revenues. Judy informed the board that the total revenue projected for next year's budget is \$12,475, which is an increase of \$2,860. K. Lyden's email regarding passing some of the library's fix cost to Bozrah, was read by G. Householder. Judy explained that we are getting a grant from the state for hosting Bozrah and feels that no increase should be requested. The board agreed.

M/S/C (Griggs/Householder) to approve Dept. 158 - Library - in the amount of \$19,900, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

ABSTAIN: (1) Eckart
Motion carried.

e.) #600 - Economic Development

G. Householder discussed what is happening on this committee. First Selectman Ross and G. Householder summarized the EDC plan to include current & future mailings, working with existing businesses, and for the promotion of the town to attract future businesses. Selectman Ross recommended that the board accept the budget as it stands. Discussed followed on the committee's spending so far and the need to appropriate money in this coming year's budget. G. Preston stating a full willingness to carryover unspent consulting expenses (account 600-95-0451) from FY 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 in support of projects the committee may initiate by the end of the 2008/2009 FY

M/S/C (Preston/Eckart) to approve Dept. 600 - Economic Development Commission - in the amount of \$3,050, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (5) Eckart, Griggs, Householder, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: (1) Pech

Motion carried.

f.) #610 - Conservation Commission/IWCC

IWCC Chairman G. Ziegra explained to the board the intention to purchase GIS software in the 2010/2011 (Plotter Replacement \$5000, GIS Software (\$2500) and 2011/2012 budget years (GPS \$6500). The GIS system was purchased used and is not adequate for plotting and mapping. Legal fees have not been used for a few years but if needed this \$700 will not go far. Money for conferences is right on line with spending. The dept has given back money several years and is not asking for an increase.

M/S/C (Householder/Griggs) to approve Dept. 610 - IWCC - in the amount of \$4,800, subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

VOTE: YES: (6) Eckart, Griggs, Householder, Pech, Preston, Weinschenker
NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

g.) #630 - Planning & Zoning

Hugh McKenney presented to the board the projected budget for the 2009/2010 year. He addressed this year's spending so far and the projective spending for the rest of the year. He addressed the need for a better system for mapping and plotting to define property lines. GIS is needed to bring the town into the 21st century. The mapping the town has now is inadequate and could create legal expenses in the future. He gave the board an update on the Kobyluck issue

concerning the court findings and settlement time lines. The board asked why both dept #610 and #630 have GIS expenses in their budgets. Hugh informed the board of an outstanding legal bill that needs addressing in this years budget.

Chairman Weinschenker stated that Hugh needed to go to the BOS to appropriate more funds to dept #630. The BOF also requested that either P&Z or IWCC return to the BOF on or before the March 19th meeting to resolve whether the GIS Expenses are truly needed and warranted in both budgets or just in one.

M/S/C (Preston/Griggs) to approve Dept. 630 - P&Z - in the amount of \$41,600 subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

h.) #645 - Recreation Commission

Sue Spang addressed the board with updates on expenses for the Recreation Committee. Maintenance expenses are for the playscape, ball field's concession stand, woodchips, equipment, etc.

Sue would like to add a line item for program expenses. The board suggested calling this line "Fee Based Activities". It was suggested to Sue to have a list, at the town meeting, of activities that the committee will offer and what has been offered so far. Sue would like to change the name of the Other Expense line to Outreach /Other Unanticipated Expenses. This line item encompasses dues, conferences, etc. Chairman Weinschenker suggested Sue breakout the dues and conferences to a separate line.

M/S/C (Eckart/Griggs) to approve Dept. 645 Recreation Commission - in the amount of \$39,650 subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

i.) #710 - Municipal Insurance

Selectman Ross addressed the email sent by Kevin Lyden regarding getting bids for the town's insurance. Bob informed the board that the Bailey Agency does this for us.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to approve Dept. 710 - Municipal Insurance - in the amount of \$123,278 to be presented at the March 19, 2009 meeting.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

j.) #810 - Unanticipated Expenses

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to approve Dept. 810 - Unanticipated Expenses - in the amount of \$1,000 subject to revision at the March 19, 2009 BOF meeting, for presentation at the public hearing.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

M/S/C (Preston/Griggs) to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried unanimously.

VIRGINIA CASEY
Recording Secretary