

Approved 5/8/08

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**March 13, 2008**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room 8:00 PM**

BOF members present: Chairman Mike O'Brien, Ms. Patty Kopas, Messrs. Carter, Muller, Ms. Melissa Koller and Vice Chair Jerry Sargent. Secretary Donna M. Anastasia.  
*Absent:* Mr. Atkinson.

Others present: Town Administrator Tom Landry, George McLaughlin Jr of Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility (CMCFR), Brian Gioiele of the Weston Forum, Weston residents Margaret Wirtenberg, Donna Bauman, Kathy Meighan and Joey Pfund.

Time: Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

**1. Discussion/Decision regarding efforts to stem unfunded state mandates.-  
George McLaughlin, CT Municipal Consortium for Fiscal  
Responsibility(CMCFR)**

The Board of Selectmen approved the consortium resolution at their March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin, one of the organizers of CMCFR established in 2005, discussed the necessity for Connecticut towns and cities to become members of one unified group. **CCM** (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities), **COST** (Council of Small Towns) and **CABE** (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) have endorsed the consortium. The consortium seeks to reform legislation of unfunded State mandates imposed on local government. Two of the many unfunded mandates of interest are:

(1) " ....the unfunded State mandate that requires municipalities and the State to pay 'prevailing wages' on construction projects over \$400K for new work and \$100K for renovations if projects are partially funded by the State."

This law prevents obtaining a lower bid due to the wage and benefit packages set by the State.

(2)".....In 1975 the General Assembly mandated compulsory binding arbitration in collective bargaining impasses between municipalities and employee unions...."

Under the current laws decisions of an arbitration panel are binding upon the parties involved thus towns and cities must expend funds necessary to comply with the panel's final decision. **See Bill No. 5028 page 5 & 8 attached**

The CMCFR does not charge any membership fees to join but asks that local elected boards and officials meet with legislators on the issues and broaden the roster of participating towns with the organization.

**2. Discussion/decision regarding proposed appropriations from General Fund Balance surplus, and recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for Special Town Meeting.**

There was discussion regarding the General Fund surplus and the anticipated possible costs and unforeseen costs. Using a 12% benchmark, net current approved supplemental appropriations results in an estimated \$624,539. surplus. The Town Hall roof was discussed with notice for bids going out April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Weston High School auditorium was discussed regarding the need to secure a final true figure for the work before the board can act on this item. Joe Fitzpatrick of the Building Committee is working with the architects on the plans and will be accepting bids once the plan is complete. This item will need follow up at another meeting. Mr. Landry mentioned a possible deficit for the Police Department (not significant) and a potential future settlement regarding a Heart/Hypertension claim.

**Motion:** Mr. Sargent made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, Mr. Carter seconded. Motion carries unanimously. Board recessed to Executive Session at 8:35 PM.

The Board reconvened at 8:55 PM respectively.

**Motion:** Mr. Muller made a motion to retain \$2,125,478.in the General Fund to be available for supplemental appropriations, Mr. Sargent seconded. Motion passes.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 14.**

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the February 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 minutes as amended, Ms. Kopas seconded. Mr. Sargent abstained. Motion carries.

**4. Any other items of business to be brought up for Board consideration**

There was discussion regarding the final back up material from the Board of Education for Milliman regarding the OPEB liability which is long overdue. Requested December 2007.

**Motion:** Mr. Muller made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Carter seconded. To discuss the OPEB ordinance draft and Trust agreement the motion to adjourn failed.

All board members present have read through both the OPEB Ordinance Draft and the OPEB Trust Agreement draft. It is agreed that the board will recommend to the Board of Selectmen a final Ordinance and Trust Agreement, with the Town Treasurer acting as Fiduciary agent for the Trust.

Chairman O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Muller seconded, all in favor meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna M. Anastasia, Secretary