

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
April 23, 2009 8:00 PM**

**Present:** Chairman Michael O'Brien, Vice Chair Jerry Sargent, board members Patty Kopas and Bob Atkinson, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Finance Director Rick Darling, Don Gary on behalf of the Alternative Energy Committee, Monte Frank of Cohen & Wolf and secretary Donna M. Anastasia.

*Mr. Muller, Ms. Koller and Mr. Carter were unable to attend.*

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at **8:06 PM** for Executive Session.

1. Executive Session- Update on Fletcher-Thomson mediation process- Monte Frank, Cohen and Wolf

The board entered into Executive Session at 8:09 PM and adjourned at 8:43 PM

**Motion:** Mr. Sargent made a motion recommending to move forward with the Fletcher-Thomson proposal as presented by attorney Frank, Ms. Kopas seconded and motion carries unanimously.

2. Discussion/decision regarding requested supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,200 to assess fuel cell project viability for the Weston School system.- Don Gary, Alternative Energy Committee

Mr. Gary described the proposal for a preliminary study of interval analysis electricity usage for the Middle School and High School buildings. The cost would include \$9,600.00 for the preliminary study to United Technologies and individual usage analysis consisting of \$300.00 for each school. (\$10,200 total)

There are two manufacturers of fuel cells in Connecticut, one in Danbury and one in Hartford. Mr. Gary gave a description of how the fuel cell functions and the ability to accommodate both schools for heat and hot water and the heating of the Middle school pool. Once in place the actual consumption is shared with Connecticut Light and Power.

Mr. Gary went over grant money which is available now through the CCEF allowing up to \$4,700 per kw hour and a sale lease back opportunity which would have to be negotiated.

There was discussion regarding the boiler replacements at the schools and the possibility of purchasing one boiler rather than two if the fuel cell project were to move forward. Mr. Gary said he would speak to Dan Clarke, Facilities Manager to update him on the fuel cell proposal with regard to the boilers.

Mr. Gary explained that the carbon dioxide currently emitted from gas and oil use will be drastically reduced using a fuel cell. Currently there are many towns using this form of energy, specifically Middletown which has had it in place for six months.

There was also some discussion regarding possible additional funding through Connecticut Corporation for Advanced Technology and Homeland Security due to the status of the Middle School.

**Motion:** Mr. Atkinson made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$10,200.00 to assess a fuel cell project for the Weston School system, Mr. Sargent seconded, motion carries unanimously.

3. Discussion/decision regarding engagement of the audit firm McGladrey and Pullen for the 2008-09 fiscal year audit at a fee of \$47,000.- Rick Darling, Finance Director

Rick Darling went over the State requirement to select an auditing firm for the upcoming year. (2008-2009 audit) He said McGladrey & Pullen have completed their fourth year with the Town and feels they have done a very good job. Auditors are usually selected for single year appointments however Mr. Sargent asked if the firm would entertain a multi-year discount arrangement.

**Motion:** Mr. Sargent made a motion to approve the firm of McGladrey & Pullen for the 2008-2009 fiscal year audit with a recommendation for a two year rate, Ms. Kopas seconded, motion carries unanimously.

4. Discussion/decision regarding establishment of FY2009-10 mill rate.

Mr. Darling went over the effective collection rate and the variables at this time effecting the rate such as tax collections which are slightly lower to date compared to last year and a significant drop in the grand list. Mr. Landry added that he feels State aid will also fall. In addition the income side is down as compared to previous years, especially investment income. Readjusting the original 97.7 to 97.6 which is 1/1000<sup>th</sup> would yield a 23.61 mill rate. (Grand list totals attached)

**Motion:** Ms. Kopas made a motion to set the mill rate at 23.61, Mr. Sargent seconded, motion carries unanimously.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2009 and March 31, 2009. Donna Anastasia, Town Clerk.

**Motion:** Chairman O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as amended, Mr. Atkinson seconded, motion carries unanimously.

**Motion:** Chairman O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 as amended, Ms. Kopas seconded, motion carries unanimously.

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

With no other items of business to come before this board Chairman O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM, Ms. Kopas seconded, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted  
Donna M. Anastasia, Secretary