

**SPECIAL BOARD of FINANCE
MEETING NOTICE
November 9, 2010
8:00 PM
TOWN HALL
COMMISSION ROOM**

Attendance: Board of Finance Members Chairman O'Brien, Vice Chair Sargent, Patty Kopas, Steve Ezzes, Bob Atkinson and Michael Carter. *Ms. Koller not attending.*
Also attending; First Selectman Weinstein, Selectman Muller, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Finance Director Rick Darling, Superintendent Jerry Belair, School Finance Director JoAnn Keating, Parks and Rec Director Dave Ungar and approximately sixty other people in attendance.

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM.

Discussion/decision regarding supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$ 65,800 for STEAP grant matching funds for the purpose of Revson Field improvements.- Gayle Weinstein

Ms. Weinstein briefly went over the STEAP grant and thanked State Representative John Stripp who was responsible for securing the grant. She then turned the meeting over to Dave Ungar. Parks & Rec still has 20K to put towards the field reducing the Town's contribution. He went over the opinion of two different companies that evaluated the field; both companies concluding that the field should be raised, pitched out and leveled off to allow proper drainage. In addition the groundskeeper for the Bluefish took a look at the field and proposed the same solution which would remediate the problem without having to rip up the field.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the maintenance of the field once the work is completed which would be carried out by both Park & Rec and the schools. Currently P&R and the schools are working on a plan and funding options i. e. sinking fund. It is agreed that Dave Ungar will oversee the project and there may be additional help in the maintenance area from outside groups such as Babe Ruth. Mr. Ungar explained that once the field is completed it will be maintained as all of the fields are currently maintained now.

The start time for work to begin would most likely be next summer after the spring baseball season.

Mr. Sargent emphasized the need for warranties in the final contract. Mr. Carter added that management should take responsibility for the project. Mr. Ezzes raised the issue of prior discussions where remediation estimates were in the millions of dollars and what certainty do we have of alleviating the problem now. Mr. Ungar said he was confident that “they” will fix the standing water problem.

Ms. Weinstein said the project will be a “partnership” similar to the way the Bisceglie project was done. There was some discussion regarding donations from the baseball community. Mr. Carter noted that he had been a past President of the Little League Association.

Both Mr. Sargent and Ms. Kopas discussed the general maintenance of all of the fields; a specific plan; future discussions with more details and the opportunity to review the final draft of the contract.

Motion: Mr. Sargent made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$ 65,800 for STEAP grant matching funds for the purpose of Revson Field improvements. Ms. Kopas seconded; with none opposed motion carries.

**Discussion only regarding Weston Public Schools Financial Report, 1st Quarter
-Dr JoAnn Keating**

There was discussion regarding the monthly committee meetings to review the budget, discuss changes, efficiencies and manage the many challenges. There was also discussion regarding an “in-house” Sped program and the possibility of cooperation with other towns to form a local program. Issues such as possible State mandates for services and a possible “migration” effect for excellent services was discussed. Superintendent Belair noted that the Town of Southington actually benefited from the revenue of an in-house program. Weston currently is at 8.7% identification, which is below the DRG. Dr. Keating mentioned that once the total number becomes available this can be discussed further.

The Board thanked Mr. Belair for his hard work and leadership over the past four years.

Discussion/decision regarding the Town's Janney account investment returns.- Rick Darling

Finance Director Rick Darling went over the Janney Montgomery Scott portfolio as of October 31, 2010. Four investments made between October 2009 and February 2010 have yielded approximately 15% of their original cost. The Town received \$116,000. in securities earnings and approximately \$62,000. in money market interest earnings respectively.

There was general discussion regarding pricing and accuracy of marketable estimates. The date of purchase would be helpful in future reports.

Motion: Ms. Kopas made a motion to accept the Janney report, Mr. Sargent seconded and motion carries unanimously. Report will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion/decision regarding Town operating budget year end transfers for FY2009-10. – Rick Darling

Year End adjustments

Mr. Darling went over year end transfers totaling approximately \$246,000. The Town's operating budget finished slightly better than last year. The transfer includes items such as police overtime costs, \$13,500. to cover former First Selectman Bliss' pension costs and Communications Center costs.

Motion: Mr. Sargent made a motion to approve \$246,185. in year end transfers for FY 2009-2010, Mr. O'Brien seconded and motion carries unanimously.

Discussion only regarding Tax Collector Suspense List.

This item will be moved to the next board meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding approval of meeting minutes of October 14, 2010.

Motion: Ms. Kopas made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2010 as submitted, Mr. Sargent seconded. With none opposed motion carries.

Any other business

Next Meeting and Follow Up items

There was discussion regarding some items to be discussed at the next board meeting. In addition to the Suspense list Mr. Carter would like some comparative information on delinquent taxes (changes in tax delinquency)

There was some discussion regarding the tracking of receivables; Mr. Darling will follow up with the auditors on whether the 5% retained balance goes into the Capital account or the General fund.

There was discussion regarding the budget review dates and the timing of receiving the budget books in advance of the meetings.

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Kopas seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Donna M. Anastasia, Town Clerk