

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on October 20, 2009 at the Town Hall with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Robert Neil, Robert Lessard, Leslie Shea, and Ray Walker; Board of Finance members Bob Munroe, Ed Steele, Jim Roscoe, John Toomey and Jim Bruner; Board of Education members John Hambrook and Joe Muro; Superintendent Paul Smith; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; Richard Hayes and Ron Rousseau.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. DISCUSSION ON BUDGET AND RELATED ITEMS FOR CURRENT YEAR, NEXT YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT YEAR

- A. Revenues
- B. Expenditures
- C. Capital Improvements
- D. Savings Opportunities/Shared Services

A preliminary report on revenues was reviewed. Tax collection is at about 98%. Investment income will be lower than anticipated. Tuition from Columbia is down two students than estimated. Prior year surplus is anticipated to be \$10,000 less than anticipated. In addition, the adopted State budget is approximately \$8,000 less than predicted. With the “cash for clunkers” incentive program, the supplemental motor vehicle may be more than in the budget.

For the current year, the town budget areas of concern are health insurance and unemployment compensation (Town and BOE). For FY11, increases are expected for the following: payroll-negotiated increases; refuse and recycling-partial offset with reduction in tons of refuse anticipated; health insurance-10% to 12% or more increase; banking costs-soft money depleted; contracted services and organizations; commodities such as sand, salt, fuel oil, and electricity; property and liability insurance; and capital reserve - \$250,000 increase for one mill.

For the current year, the education budget has a deficit in special education-\$95,000 transportation and \$125,000 services. A freeze has been put on spending. The excess cost is in the budget at 80%.

The capital reserve budget for next year will go up by approximately \$250,000. A 1% growth in the grand list is worth approximately \$130,000. It is possible to put some of debt service into capital reserve budget. The new threshold for projects in this budget is now \$10,000.

For many economic reasons, Mr. Morra stated that the Town should take over grounds maintenance at the schools. With an expansion to the high school and the cost of equipment, this is an opportune time to combine service. Mr. Roscoe suggested looking at public safety, library services and further collaboration with Columbia. Mr. Munroe suggested reviewing our current debt since rates are low.

3. CAPITAL ACQUISITION PLANNING AND ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Members to date are: First Selectman Robert Morra; Selectman Robert Lessard; and Board of Finance member James Roscoe. The Board of Education has not selected its representatives. The committee will decide on the member at large.

4. BUDGET PROCESS

Ms. Stille reviewed the budget process as a result of the new charter. Mr. Morra expressed his concerns about the state funding the high school project. Mr. Hambrook shared that Senator Handley had informed him that the moratorium on school funding had been lifted. At this point, the project is progressing as planned.

Mr. Bruner asked about the Notch Road Municipal Center. Mr. Morra stated that he will be discussing with his board at its next meeting having somebody look at the roof, heating system and access issues for cost effectiveness.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Shea, seconded by Mr. Neil, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.