

PRESENT Chairman Ronald Fedor, George Peteros, John W. Sheehan, Alan Wilensky, G. Brian Vachris, Norman Glidden, Rosalyn Dupuis

OFFICIALS First Selectman Daniel Steward, Selectman Paul Konstantakis

RTM Thomas Dembek

ALSO Dr. Randall Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Michael DeRay, Business Manager;
From Board Craig Powers, Assistant Superintendent
of Education

MEDIA Stephen Chupaska, The Day

STAFF Ruth Beers, Finance Director; Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

Chairman Fedor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ITEM 1 Approval and acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting on December 9, 2009
MOTION To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2009 as read.
Sheehan, Dupuis Unanimous

ITEM 2 Public Comment - none

ITEM 3 Request from First Selectman to appropriate \$375,525 from LI 20509-57090, Capital and Non-recurring Expenditure Fund, Designated Fund Balance, Municipal Complex Renovations, for the Design Development and Contract Documents Phase/Site Remediation Phase II. This request is consistent with the Capital Improvement Plan.

MOTION To consider this request.
Sheehan, Vachris

Thomas Burns, Chairman of the Municipal Complex Building Committee, Public Works Director Ronald Cusano, Utility Commission Director Neftali Soto were present.

Mr. Burns reviewed the history of the project, Phase I and Phase II, and three options prepared by Consultant Shoenhardt associated with construction costs without the cost of remediation or financing:

Option One: Renovation of Existing Building - \$4,917,000

Option Two: Renovation of Existing Building w/New Pre Engineered Garage (Renovate the Office Area, Maintenance Garage Area and associated garage area between the two. Demolish and rebuild the Recreation and Parks/Senior and portion of the garage area and construct butler style building) - **\$6,379,000**

Option Three: Demolish Existing Building, Replace w/New Pre Engineered Building (Demolish and Rebuild the entire complex) - **\$7,103,000**

Discussion was held regarding the proposed building layout. Mr. Sheehan suggested exploring alternative energy sources, site remediation, inefficient and non-code compliant mechanical systems. Mr. Vachris felt that Option One would be most cost effective and that the State has funds available for removal of leaking oil tanks and suggested exploring if some of those funds could be obtained. Mr. Fedor questioned if the timing of this project is right, considering the new schools, and that this might be more than we can afford. He also wondered about the cost of running the new building.

Mr. Sheehan noted that construction people are now looking for work. Mr. Peteros felt that the information provided illustrates the need.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the request as stated in the amount of \$375,525 and recommend to the RTM

Mr. Wilensky offered a friendly amendment that the line item should be 20530-57695, Municipal Complex Renovations, seconded by Mr. Sheehan. Vote was unanimous.

ITEM 4 Review and approval of Board of Finance budget for FY2010/2011
MOTION To approve the Board of Finance budget for FY2010/2011 in the amount of \$62,267.
Wilensky, Vachris Unanimous

ITEM 5 Review and approval of Contingency budget for FY2010/2011
MOTION To approve the Contingency budget for FY2010/2011 in the amount of \$250,000.
Wilensky, Dupuis Unanimous

ITEM 6 To consider and act upon draft of Board of Finance Policy regarding Emergency Appropriations
MOTION by First Selectman
To table this item.
Vachris, Glidden Yes: Vachris, Glidden, Peteros, Fedor, Dupuis, Wilensky
Abstain: Sheehan

ITEM 6A **Addendum Item:** To discuss Fiscal Year 2011 budget projection on Health Care Costs
Finance Director Beers explained that she and Business Manager DeRay have been monitoring claims since they began to escalate in the early months of 2009. She gave lengthy detail that indicates that claims will exceed budgeted estimates. She noted that healthcare costs need to be increased by \$1 million for the Board of Education, and \$457,000 for the Town in order to stay solvent.

Lengthy discussion was held. Mr. Peteros suggested that union representatives for the Town and the Board of Education be invited to join in discussions to include cost-saving measures that could also include furloughs. Mr. Glidden felt that the RTM should have that responsibility. Dr. Collins indicated that the school district’s six unions would be willing to discuss cost-saving measures to help offset the hike in the FY 2010/2011 budget.

ITEM 7 New Business
It was the consensus of the Board that Finance Director Beers prepare a worst-case budget scenario to the Board members prior to the beginning of the budget deliberations.

ITEM 8 Liaison Reports
Mr. Peteros reported that the Senior Citizen Commission has prepared a reduced budget.
Mr. Vachris reported that Oswegatchie Fire House may need structural repair.
Mr. Sheehan reported the Board of Selectmen has begun budget hearings, and that the Charter Revision Commission invites the Board of Finance members to their January 19 meeting to make comments on any proposed changes to Town Government.

ITEM 9 Correspondence
December 14, 2009 Letter from Town Accountant regarding Status of General Fund Unreserved Balance
January 12, 2010 Letter from Town Accountant regarding Status of General Fund Unreserved Balance
January 11, 2010 Periodic Financial Statements from Town Accountant

ITEM 10 Adjournment
MOTION To adjourn at 9:07 pm.
Sheehan, Dupuis Unanimous

Submitted by, Prepared by,
Alan Wilensky, Clerk Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

