

PRESENT Chairman John W. Sheehan, Cheryl Larder, Kenneth Brown, George Peteros, Ronald Fedor, Alan Wilensky, Rosalyn Dupuis at 7:20 pm.

OFFICIALS First Selectman Daniel Steward, Selectman Paul Konstantakis

RTM Susan Driscoll

ALSO: Dr. Randall Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Assistant Superintendent Craig Powers, Bernard Pisacich, Town Treasurer

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

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

ITEM 1 Approval and acceptance of minutes of:
Budget Hearing on March 2, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 2, 2009 as read.
Fedor, Wilensky Unanimous

Budget Hearing on March 4, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 4, 2009 as read.
Fedor, Wilensky Yes: Fedor, Wilensky, Sheehan, Larder, Peteros
Abstain: Brown

Budget Hearing on March 9, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 9, 2009 as read.
Wilensky, Fedor Yes: Fedor, Wilensky, Sheehan, Larder, Peteros
Abstain: Brown

Budget Hearing on March 11, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 11, 2009 with correction of total of Board of Selectmen to \$209,757.
Fedor, Wilensky Yes: Fedor, Wilensky, Sheehan, Larder, Peteros
Abstain: Brown

Regular Meeting on March 11, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Regular Meeting on March 11, 2009 with addition that Jody Nazarchyk and Joseph Mariani Jr. spoke in support of Recreation and Parks.
Fedor, Wilensky Yes: Fedor, Wilensky, Sheehan, Larder, Peteros
Abstain: Brown

Budget Hearing on March 16, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 16, 2009 as read.
Fedor, Wilensky Yes: Fedor, Wilensky, Sheehan, Larder, Peteros
Abstain: Brown

Budget Hearing on March 18, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 18, 2009 as read.
Fedor, Wilensky Yes, Fedor, Wilensky, Brown, Peteros, Sheehan
Abstain: Larder

Budget Hearing on March 23, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Budget Hearing on March 23, 2009 as read.
Fedor, Wilensky Unanimous

Public Hearing/Special Meeting on March 25, 2009

MOTION To approve minutes of Public Hearing/Special Meeting on March 25, 2009 as read.
Wilensky, Fedor Unanimous

ITEM 2 Public Comment – none

ITEM 3 Request from Zoning Board of Appeals for an additional appropriation of \$3,216 to LI 10115-52010 Advertising
MOTION To approve the request as stated as a transfer from Contingency LI 10121-59010 in the amount of \$3,216.
Fedor, Brown Unanimous

ITEM 4 Request from Board of Selectmen on behalf of Building Maintenance Department for an additional appropriation of \$29,515 to LI 10111-52100, Electricity
MOTION To consider this request.
Fedor, Brown

Funds are requested for electricity at the old Cohanzie School and for electricity at Town Hall. An energy audit has been conducted.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the request as stated as a transfer from Contingency LI 10121-59010 in the amount of \$29,515.

ITEM 5 Request from Board of Selectmen for an additional appropriation of \$17,648 to LI 10101-51110 Administration
MOTION To approve the request as stated as a transfer from Contingency LI 10121-59010 in the amount of \$17,648
Fedor, Wilensky Unanimous

ITEM 6 Consider and act on letters from Board of Finance to First Selectman, Chairman of Board of Education, and Representative Town Meeting Moderator regarding a Wage Freeze for Waterford employees

Discussion was held regarding drafts of the letters. Mr. Brown can't support this action. He feels the Board should not get involved in labor negotiations. Mr. Wilensky agreed and felt there should have been prior discussion. Mr. Fedor won't support this action. He feels contracts were negotiated in good faith. He referred to the hiring of new positions and that entry level pay rates need to be looked at. He felt this discussion should be a wake-up call for administration, department heads, and unions as to what lies ahead, and there is a need to talk to legislators regarding unfunded mandates.

Ms. Larder remarked that the drafts of these letters were included in the agenda package and was the topic of an article in THE DAY prior to this meeting. She then referred to the review of town budgets and some pay increases of 10%, hiring a new dept head at higher than the departing employee, a discretionary raise by a dept head, as well as part time seasonal employees paid at \$14.00 per hour.

Ms. Dupuis arrived at this time.

She felt this is not the time to take this action although it may be necessary to limit wage increases in the future.

Mr. Peteros felt the intent of the letters may be widely misunderstood. The context is a broad picture of the Town's financial status. The Board of Finance has a Long Range Fiscal Planning Committee that considers decreased revenue, the decrease in SBC payments, debt service and the use of surplus ; the letter provides information as to what lies ahead. He will not support a freeze at this time.

Mr. Sheehan said the intent of the letter was to engender discussion and raise the visibility of the issue from a planning point of view. Contracts are negotiated by the First Selectman, Town counsel, and the unions. He hopes that this discussion will encourage the administration and the unions to plan ahead for any necessary reductions so that they can be orderly and agreed to. Mr. Sheehan expressed his appreciation for the effort that went into the budgets and hopes it raised visibility of what is coming in the future.

Discussion was closed.

ITEM 7 New Business

Mr. Peteros referred to the budget Hearing on March 11 at which time he requested the Utility Commission for a complete budgeting statement similar to that prepared by other departments to better understand the commission's monetary needs. A reminder will be forwarded to the commission.

Mr. Sheehan advised that the Utility Commission has taken an appeal of the Board's reduction for the Mago Point upgrade in the Capital Improvement Plan to the RTM.

ITEM 8 Liaison Reports

Mr. Wilensky gave an update on the school projects.

ITEM 9 Correspondence

Correspondence Enclosed:

March 13, 2009 Letter from Public Works Director Cusano regarding shortage in LI 10330-52400 Meal Allowance

March 18, 2009 Letter from Mr. Steward requesting that no item be placed on the Board of Finance agenda at this time regarding sewage overage for Cohanzie School

March 10, 2009 Minutes of Special Meeting of School Building Committee

March 11, 2009 Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal Complex Improvements Building Committee

March 19, 2009 Copy of letter to Chatham Consulting, Inc. regarding Town of Waterford Fleet Sizing and Utilization Study Bid #09-122

March 19, 2009 Copy of letter to Mercury Associates, Inc. regarding Town of Waterford Fleet Sizing and Utilization Study Bid #09-122

March 19, 2009 Copy of letter to TATC Consulting regarding Town of Waterford Fleet Sizing and Utilization Study Bid #09-122

February 18, 2009 Minutes of Economic Development Commission

March 18, 2009 Agenda of Economic Development Commission

March 3, 2009 Minutes of Goshen Fire Department

March 9, 2009 Goshen Fire Department financial statements

March 27, 2009 Correspondence from Cohanzie Fire Chief Hennessey regarding Accountability System

Chief Hennessey has invited members of the Board to a vendor demonstration regarding security to be held at the Cohanzie Fire Station on April 20 at 5 pm.

Mr. Sheehan said a Special Meeting may be held on May 18 regarding the high school capital project.

ITEM 10 Adjournment

MOTION To adjourn at 7:40 pm.

Fedor, Wilensky

Unanimous

Submitted by,

Prepared by,

Cheryl Larder, Clerk

Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

