

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman James Persano at 7:08 p.m. Present were: Stephen Krasinski, Thomas Mazzoli, Michael Parker, James Persano, Marilyn Pronovost and George Warner. Also attending: Treasurer Edward Sullivan and First Selectman David Pinney.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Pinney presented a letter from the Board of Education inviting the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to a joint meeting of all three boards on March 29, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting would include a discussion about the possibility of sharing services between the Board of Education and the Town. By combining services commonly used, the opportunity may exist to save on costs.

It was determined that March 29<sup>th</sup> was an inconvenient date for some of the Board of Finance Members, but it was the consensus that Mr. Pinney move forward with combining services without a meeting.

**III. BOARD OF EDUCATION BRIEFING**

Board of Education Member Tim Geib passed out a BOE Budget History Summary and stated that this year they are asking for a 6.24% increase. This percentage is in line with the average yearly increase of 4.61% the Board of Ed has incurred since 2002/03. The Board of Ed has been working within the Town's constraints although it has been difficult. Families and teachers have donated goods and services and helped financially.

One of the state mandates this year involves bringing special education students into the regular classrooms. Should the requested increases to support staff be cut, the classroom changes will not be done properly and the Town will have to pay the repercussions in the future financially anyway.

Mr. Geib noted if the Board of Finance brings the proposed Board of Education budget below 5.8%, important programs will be at risk and the quality of education may decline. Parents and teachers are likely to be upset and refuse to vote for the proposed budget.

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Mr. Warner asked about specific proposed staff increases, including that of a curriculum director, and Mr. Geib explained the reasoning behind the Board of Education's request. He added that the Board of Finance may disagree with some of the Board of Education's specific requests. If so, this can be solved by bridging the gap between the 6.24% proposed budget and the 5.8% base-line figure and eliminating some of the items of lesser importance. It was noted that 5.8% is approximately \$70,000.00 less than 6.24% increase.

**IV. LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDING**

Positive feedback was received at the public hearing and Shirley Warner stated that the Library Board would now like to move forward with the project.

David Pinney reported that the Board of Selectmen are in the process of getting a committee together and have talked with the Special Projects Committee. They are trying to decide whether to use that Committee or to come up with another one. Once a decision regarding the committee is made, an architect can be chosen and preliminary plans can be made. However, the Committee will need the \$50,000.00 appropriation to begin.

A motion was made by Jim Persano, seconded by Tom Mazzoli and unanimously voted to approve an appropriation of \$50,000.00 to Acct. 69-10-161.0 (Preliminary Funding) and to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they bring this appropriation before a Town meeting.

**V. REVENUE FORECAST AND MIL RATE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Sullivan presented the two additional options as requested at the March 20 meeting, both showing the Town at 4.4%. The first option had the Board of Education at 5% in 2006-07 and 4.4% in 2007-2011. The second option showed the Board of Education at 5.5% in 2006-07 and 4.4% in 2007-2011.

It was noted that the Board had given CIP the amount of \$517,000.00 to work with and now should remain committed to that figure.

Following discussion regarding the various scenarios, a motion was made by Jim Persano, seconded by Michael Parker and unanimously voted to set the 2006-07 General Government Budget with a 4.4% increase at \$5,528,312.00, which includes \$35,000.00 for the lagoon cleaning and \$135,480.00 for Self Support Services. Additionally, the Board of Education is set at \$16,937,623.00 which represents a 5.25% increase. The mil rate is increased by .76 mil. Capital equipment is proposed at 517,000.00.

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## **VI. BUDGET REVIEW MEETING**

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This item was addressed as part of Item V above.

## **VII. MINUTES REVIEW**

A motion was made by Tom Mazzoli, seconded by Jim Persano and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 20, 2006 as presented.

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**VIII. MINUTES CORRECTIONS** – There were none.

## **IX. BILLS, TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS**

A motion was made by George Warner seconded by Tom Mazzoli and unanimously voted to approve the following transfers and appropriations:

From the Board of Selectmen a transfer of \$380.00 from Acct. 10-10-600.3 (Legal Unions) to Acct. 10-32-532.5 (Probate Court).

From the Fire Department the following transfers: \$1,000.00 from Acct. 20-16-584.1 (Foam) to Acct. 20-16-560.1 (Electricity); \$2,100.00 from Acct. 20-16-563.1 (Alert Pager Maintenance) to Acct. 20-16-559.1 (Heat); \$1,750.00 from Acct. 41-24-563.1 (New Pager Purchase) to Acct. 20-16-560.1 (Electricity); \$700.00 from Acct. 41-24-605.1 (Blood Borne Pathogens) to Acct. 41-24-531.5 (Vehicle Maintenance); and \$1,000.00 from Acct. 41-24-568.1 (Training) to Acct. 20-16-560.1 (Electricity).

From the Building Official a transfer of \$755.00 from Acct. 10-16-502.1 (Building/Sanitarian Secretary) to Acct. 10-16-520.1 (Supplies).

From the Transfer Station a transfer of \$1,000.00 from Acct. 30-34-588.1 (Recycling) to Acct. 30-34-589.1 (Landfill Operating).

From the Library a transfer of \$1,100.00 from Acct. 50-21-611.1 (Services) to Acct. 50-21-559.1 (Heat).

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## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Tom Mazzoli, seconded by Michael Parker and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Timmons, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.