

TOWN OF SOMERS

BOARD OF FINANCE

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman James Persano. Members present were George Warner, Tom Mazzoli and Michael Parker and Marilyn Provonost (7:05). Also attending: Finance Director Greg Simmons, Selectman David Pinney and BOE Representatives Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Terry Henderson and Tim Potrikus.

**II. BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE**

Terry Henderson notified the BOF that about \$60,000 in CIP items for the BOE did not make the cut this year. Most notably a router costing about \$40,000 is needed for the schools. If the router goes the school and the library will need to be shutdown until it is replaced. The current router was installed in 2001 and had a 5-year life span. At this time, maintenance on the firewall is not possible because the warrantee has expired. The item did not make the cut because it was originally prioritized around thirteen on the CIP list and the rating does not change according to the CIP process.

Tim Potrikus pointed out that about 25% of the cost of the router could come from the savings in purchasing sound field systems for the hearing impaired. Currently the equipment is being rented for \$30,000 per year but can be purchased for \$20,000.

Terry Henderson presented an explanation of why the BOE requires a 5.16% increase, which exceeds the 4.5% increase requested by the BOF. She further explained that the BOE begins work on their budget in September and receives the memo from the BOF on the requested percentage of increase in January after their budget is completed.

Dr. Sufredini continued that contractual and insurance obligations alone have pushed the BOE budget over the 4.5% increase level. He went on to provide detailed information regarding the additional teaching positions that are needed.

There was a discussion regarding why additional positions are needed when three full-time equivalent positions were added last year and school enrollment had reduced. Ms. Henderson explained that the additional Guidance Counselor position was required or the school would lose its accreditation. She added that Somers' class sizes are large in comparison to other local towns.

Part of the BOE budget will go to revamp the Applied Engineering (technical education) Program. Some of the equipment is obsolete and is not functioning. There are some OSHA required air-handling issues that must be remedied also.

### **III. Budget Submission Review and Discussion**

Tim Potrikus spoke on behalf of CIP. CIP Committee requests that their budget be increased to \$650,000 for the next few years to cover the cost of purchasing dump trucks. A discussion ensued regarding the wisdom of leasing dump trucks instead of purchasing them. The current CIP prioritized rating for the trucks is 13.9. Other items on the CIP list were reviewed. Mr. Warner suggested that a carry-over fund for Capital Equipment and Non-Recurring expenses be created to cover large ticket items.

David Pinney said that the Selectmen were not ready to present their budget, however he stated that the largest increases are in the Fire Department.

Mr. Simmons provided the prepared Budget and gave the percentage of increase or change from last year verbally as follows:

Total Selectmen..... 1.3	Treasurer..... 0.35	Town Clerk..... 2.86
Tax Collector..... -0.72	Assessors..... -1.36	Building Dept..... 2.8
Planning..... -14.06	Zoning..... -24.6	Zoning BOA..... 26.21
BOF..... --,--	Probate..... --,--	Board of Assessment Appeals..... --,--

Fire Marshall..... 10.0	Fire Dept..... 9.0	Police..... 4.19
Civil Preparedness.. --.--	Highway..... 8.21	Parks & Rec..... 3.03
Transfer Station..... 0.76	WPCA..... 6.17	Health..... 45.45
Ambulance..... 13.72	Library..... 5.6	Recreation..... 7.59
Meals-On-Wheels... 9.73	BOE..... 5.16	Debt Service..... 10.59
Conservation..... 3.55	Recreation Self Support.... --.--	Other..... -38.1
Total Increase including salaries..... 4.48%		

#### **IV. BUDGET SCHEDULE**

The proposed Budget Schedule was reviewed and changed to the following:

March 10, 2008 – Special Meeting, Selectmen’s departmental presentation

March 17, 2008 – Special Meeting Board of Education departmental presentation

March 24, 2008 – Regular Meeting, BOF working meeting including budget deliberations

April 28, 2008 – Public Hearing on the Budget

May 12, 2008 – Annual Town Meeting

May 20, 2008 – Referendum to adopt the budget

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were presented to the BOF by Mr. Simmons:

1. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the Fire Department's Budget
2. A memo from the Selectmen re the mandatory discretionary spending freeze.
3. A memo from Assessor, Pat Juda on the 2007 Grand List which is up 1.7% over 2006 totals.

## **VI. MINUTES APPROVAL – January 28, 2008**

Motion by Tom Mazzoli, seconded by George Warner and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 28, 2008 as written.

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

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

By the Town Clerk for a transfer of \$600.00 from Supplies (10-12-520.1) to Advertising (10-12-516.1).

By the Fire Marshal for transfers of \$160.68.00 from Fire Marshal Salary (20-10-501.3) to Part-time Fire Dept (20-16-508.2), \$471.84 from Fire Marshal Salary (20-10-501.3) to Full-time Employees (20-16-508.1), \$1,500.00 from Fire Marshal Salary (20-10-501.3) to Fire Investigator (20-10-502.3).

By the Transfer Station for transfers of \$3,000.00 from Part-time Salaries (30-34-508.2) to Overtime (30-34-506.1), \$2,000.00 Part-time Salaries (30-34-508.3) to Roll-off Driver (30-34-508.3), \$8,000.00 from Part-time Salaries (30-34-508.2) to Highway Temporary (30-18-509.1).

By the Highway Department for transfers of \$3,800.00 from Road Maintenance (30-18-553.1) to Playground (30-19-521.5), \$500.00 from Garage & Equipment (30-18-587.1) to Parks Equipment (30-19-530.5)

By the Selectmen for transfers of \$2,000.00 from Fire Protection (10-10-536.1) to Office Supplies (10-10-520.1), \$1,200.00 from Mileage (10-10-527.1) to Pension Actuary (10-10-512.2), \$6,000.00 from Bonds & Insurance (10-10-515.2) to Advertising (10-10-516.1).

**The following transfers were referred to a Public Hearing:**

By the Selectmen for transfers of \$3,945.00 from Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Executive Assistant (10-10-502.1), \$25,945.00 Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Social Services Director (10-10-503.1), \$17,700.00 from Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Chief Financial Officer (10-11-501.1), \$4,360.00 from Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Highway Salaries (30-18-508.1) \$16,800.00 from Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Fire Full-time Salaries (20-16-508.1), \$8,000.00 from Proposed Salaries (10-10-508.1) to Fire Overtime (20-16-503.3).

By the Selectmen for transfers of \$22,000.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Public Works Fuel (30-18-531.8), \$2,500.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Transfer Station Fuel (30-34-531.8), \$7,000.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Police Fuel (20-17-531.8).

By the Selectmen for transfers of \$3,500.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Town Hall Heat (10-10-559.1), \$5,000.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Kibbe-Fuller Heat (10-10-559.2), \$2,500.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Town Garage Heat (30-18-559.1), \$300.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Transfer Station Heat (30-34-559.1), \$500.00 from Health Insurance (10-10-511.1) to Senior Center Expenses (51-30-640.1).

**VIII. OTHER**

Mr. Simmons will be sending out the seven-year plan.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. was made by Tom Mazzoli and seconded by Mike Parker; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Reed, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING