

TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Persano called the regular meeting to order, at 7:02pm. Members present were Steve Krasinski, George Warner, Michael Parker and Tom Mazzoli. Marilyn Pronovost joined the meeting at 7:06. Also present were First Selectmen David Pinney, Board of Education member Tim Potrikus, School Business Manager Bill Boutwell and Finance Director Greg Simmons.

Chairman Persano made a motion to take the agenda out of order to hear from the Board of Education representatives for an update. The Board unanimously agreed.

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION UP DATE

Mr. Potrikus informed the Board of several items that have come up that the Board of Education did not fund for in this year's budget including: repairs to computer lab; air handling equipment; and paraprofessional services for a new student at Mable B. Avery School. The cost of these items is estimated at \$50,000.

Mr. Krasinski asked when the Board would begin contract negotiations with the teachers. Mr. Boutwell replied that the contract is still good for another year so negotiations will begin a year from now.

Mr. Boutwell handed out a document summarizing the budget transfers made by the Board of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 totaling \$416,659. Mr. Warner asked if the Board budgeted for long-term substitutes. Mr. Boutwell said they do budget an estimate, but the actual in some categories was higher than originally anticipated. Mr. Parker questioned why \$55,000 in textbooks was not purchased. Mr. Boutwell replied that some books are purchased in the spring and the Board already knew of the financial pressures on the budget for the fiscal year and had placed a freeze. Mr. Boutwell added that \$30,000 of that balance was for social studies textbooks and the State changed the curriculum for this program so the Board wanted to wait for the new textbooks to become available.

Chairman Persano asked how many people were laid off for the current year's frozen budget. Mr. Boutwell replied the town lost 5 elementary positions and 5 high school positions so they are down 10 positions. Due to retirement and resignations, they only had to lay off 3 people; the other positions were simply not filled.

Ms. Pronovost questioned the impact these layoffs had on class sizes. Mr. Potrikus replied that the elementary class sizes increased by 2 students to range between 20 and 25. For the high school they were able to eliminate some electives and keep the alternative education program, which is important. In the coming year, if we are still looking at no increase it will be very hard on the school systems.

III. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATE

Mr. Pinney provided an update including the pressure on the State to fill the budget gap and the impact that it may have on current state funding. Due to these pressures, the Town is holding costs down where possible including an open position in the highway division. Mr. Pinney also informed the Board of the need to replace a boiler in the Kibbe Fuller building that is estimated to cost \$10,000. The Town is looking to see if this item could qualify for grant money available for projects that increase energy efficiency.

Mr. Simmons informed the Board that the Town would be returning \$250,000 of unexpended appropriations to the fund balance along with \$150,000 of revenue in excess of budgeted figures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Chairman Persano made a motion seconded by Mr. Warner to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of July 27, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

VI. BILLS, TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Krasinski made a motion seconded by Mr. Warner to approve transfers #3 to #6 as shown below. The motion was approved unanimously.

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
9/28/2009 #3				
Town Clerk	Postage	Data Processing	\$ 500.00	Funds needed for land record audits and map processing to CD.
Town Clerk	Codification	Data Processing	\$ 500.00	
9/28/2009 #4				
Selectmen	Salaries FT Planner	Unemployment	\$ 14,274.00	To cover maximum expected unemployment liability from elimination of Planner position.
9/28/2009 #5				
Planning	Selectmen Legal	Planning Legal	\$ 2,000.00	Continued litigation stemming from appeals filed in response to Bernier Subdivision approval.
9/28/2009 #6				
Selectmen	Social Svcs. Grant	Meals on Wheels Coordinator	\$ 1,200.00	Expand coordinator engagement using grant from state.

VII. OTHER

There was no other business.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Pronovost made a motion seconded by Mr. Warner to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Simmons, recording secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING