

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
P.O. BOX 308
SOMERS, CT 06071**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2010
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM– 6:30 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman James Persano called the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 6:32 pm. Members George Warner, Thomas Mazzoli, and Michael Parker, and Steve Krasinski were present and constituted a quorum. Also present were First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Board of Education Chairman, David Palmer, Board of Education representative Bill Boutwell, Board of Education member Tim Potrikus, and finance consultant, Linda Savitsky.

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Superintendent, Dr. Suffredini opened his presentation by stating that the Board of Education has submitted a level service budget for 2010-2011 of \$19,326,117, which represents a modest increase of 3% from the 2009-2010 budget.

He outlined the total increase of \$563,785; made up of: salaries (\$392,995); insurance (\$228,920); and fuel account (\$14,300). Slides depicted the steadily increasing insurance and fuel costs to the Town from 2004 through 2009. Cuts were made to utilities and transportation and Travel/In-Service/Services. All other budget items remained frozen at 2009 figures. There were no increases in personnel or services.

Dr. Suffredini moved to Expenditures Per Pupil and pointed out that the Town spends substantially less compared to the State and DRG-C. He had earlier pointed out that Instructional expenditures in the proposed 2010-2011 Budget represent only 7% of the overall Education Budget.

When closing his presentation to the Board and audience, Dr. Suffredini stated that the budget is sensitive of the current economy while seeking to still meet the educational needs of the Town. He felt that without passage by the Board of Finance, the Schools would see drastically increased class sizes and reduction in programs available to students.

III. OTHER :

Dr. Suffredini stressed the importance of Technology to students and administration, and asked the Board to continue to fund Technology (\$80,000) out of the Capital Improvement Budget. He stressed that these funds are necessary to build an infrastructure to support current and future technology needs.

Board of Finance members, Mr. Parker and Mr. Krasinski, asked for a specific breakdown as to elements of the Technology Long Range Plan and the corresponding costs. Dr. Suffredini stated that the 3 year Plan, representing approximately \$350,000, is composed of: hardware purchases, set-up/upgrades of classes/labs, wiring, professional development for educators, smart boards, etc. Mr. Palmer, Board of Education Chairman, addressed the group, stating that a 3 year Plan has been

submitted to the Board of Education and that he will provide a short-term roadmap to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Krasinski questioned Capital Equipment/General Department Maintenance budget items as sufficient. Mr. Boutwell responded that perhaps underfunded, previously some of these needs had been met as CIP requests. Mr. Potrikus pointed out that Roof repairs/maintenance was not included in the budget; the goal is to submit for State funding.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Warner, and unanimously voted to adjourn the March 22, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.