

Bd of Finance/Bd of Selectmen
Joint Meeting October 7, 2009
Warren Town Hall
Town Clerk's Office

Board of Finance members present: Ellen Prindle, Susan Haxo, David Robinson, William Hopkins, William Schnell, Robyn Kasler.

Board of Selectmen present: Jack Travers, Marion Smith, Calvin Tanner

Also present: Treasurer James Richardson, Maria Busi (Paul Dooley Realty), Craig Drezek (Reg 6 Superintendent), Ed Drapp (Reg 6 Business Manager). Region 6 Board Members present: Luke Tanner, John Barrett, Lori Fedewa, Dan Coutu (Morris).

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Prindle at 7:00 pm.

1.) A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2009. The motion passed unanimously. (Robinson/Schnell).

2.) Discussion with Region 6 Superintendent and Business Manager-Craig Drezek spoke of the desire to meet with the towns to get input before the budget is created. They are looking for ways to keep a 0% budget increase and are re-evaluating personnel as it is felt that is where the savings may lie. Ed Drapp addressed three questions:

- a. Renovations to the district house-The cost totaled \$71, 513. Environmental issues (asbestos, mold and radon) pushed the total over the \$60,000 target. They were able to use money from the general fund and not use capital funds.
- b. Stimulus money-Title 1 received was \$59,569, IDEA received was \$199,545, Preschool IDEA \$7,9000. ECS money received (\$49,484 & 89,749) will be returned to the towns to reduce assessments.
- c. Where do we stand-It is early in the year, but tuition for Vo-Ag students is down. Budgeted revenue and expenditures look to be on target.

Jack asked about proper use of stimulus money. Mr. Drezek noted that there are guidelines to follow. It was decided not to add new staff as this is a one shot deal and there is no future funding to keep new positions in place. Money is being used to enhance Assistive Technology in the classrooms and for Professional Development.

The budget process has begun and they are looking at reallocation of resources. Enrollments are going down so positions are being looked at and attrition of staff is a factor. They are also looking at vendors and contracts as places to trim.

Bond refinancing-The market is very favorable right now, one bond that is being reissued will save \$325,000 over the next ten years. These are all opportunities that are being explored. Discussion was held regarding student population at the various schools and

how staff can be used efficiently. Home schooling was discussed as well as reasons that families do not use the school system.

The school board will continue with Town Hall meetings to keep communication open with the public.

3.) Expenditures-A PILOT payment of \$14,483 was just received that had not been budgeted for. The audit is just about complete. Jack will be bringing a question to the town to begin the process for renovating the old town hall.

4.) The zoning board has asked for funds to rewrite their regulations. They would like to hire a professional planner to work with them, and the process could take a year. It is felt that this is a good time to do this as things are otherwise slow.

A motion was made to authorize funds not to exceed \$16,000 from the undesignated fund balance to go to the Zoning Board for the purpose of rewriting their regulations (Robinson/Hopkins). All in favor.

5.) Wasley property-Members of the board had walked the property and concerns remain the same-access, use of the property. Jack will contact an adjoining landowner regarding additional access. Maria Busi will make arrangements to allow test holes to be dug. Discussion was held regarding uses, value of the property, fair price and other options. It was agreed that a decision will be made at the next meeting.

6.) Public comment-The new town hall is coming along.

With no further business a motion was made to adjourn at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne C. Tiedmann