



TOWN OF MADISON CONNECTICUT 06443-2563
BOARD OF FINANCE

Deephouse, James
Fearon, Abigail J.
Goldberg, Alfred J.
McPherson, Fillmore
Pardo, Peter
Tung, Jennifer S.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Finance held on May 23, 2007 in the Madison Town Campus

Present: Fillmore McPherson, Jim Deephouse (arrived 8:30 p.m.), Gail Fearon, Al Goldberg, Peter Pardo, Jennifer Tung

Also present: Dotty Bavin, Finance Director; MCTV

Mr. McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes – April 18, 2007. The following correction was made to the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2007:
Page 3, item 2, 6th paragraph, second sentence should read “Given the size of this item there was a recommendation to set up a Board similar to the Lo Cap Committee and he recommends that this item be given future consideration.”

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2007 were approved as corrected.

The minutes of the budget workshop meeting of April 26, 2007 were approved as submitted.

2. Citizen and Finance Member Comments. Mr. McPherson noted that at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting the Board of Education had been able to make modifications to the budget to be able to begin to move forward with their strategic plan.
3. Discuss and take action on calling a Special Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in room A – Town Campus to hear the Library Board’s Presentation on expansion plans and request for Town support. On motion made by Ms. Fearon, and seconded by Mr. Pardo, the Board voted unanimously to call a Special Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in room A – Town Campus to hear the Library Board’s Presentation on expansion plans and request for Town support
4. Discuss and take action on accepting a donation from Nichol’s Electric for work at the Green Hill Road softball field. (approximate value \$3,500). On motion made by Mr. Pardo, and seconded by Ms. Fearon, the Board voted unanimously to accept a donation from Nichol’s Electric for electrical work, of an approximate value of \$3,500, at the new softball complex on Green Hill Road, with thanks.
5. Depending on the outcome of the May 22, 2007 Budget Referendum, discuss and take action on setting the mill rate for the 2007-08 budget year, OR revising the Town or Education budgets for referendum. Mr. McPherson provided the Board members with a copy of updated estimates of State Formula Aid to Municipalities as of May 8, 2007. It was noted that there was no change in the ECS formula. Mr. McPherson provided Board members with a chart of the possible mill rate depending on various amounts from the fund balance being utilized to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes. The chart also showed the percent increase for various options.

A detailed analysis of the scenario of using \$280,000 from the fund balance was provided and reviewed by the Board members. If \$280,000 is utilized from the fund balance the mill rate would be 23.34 which would be a 4.75% increase.

Ms. Bavin noted that it is estimated that \$50,000 less than projected will be coming from the State in revenue for reimbursement for school projects next year. Members were provided with a handout of a correction to the Appropriations Committee's Official Grant Numbers – Impact on Madison. Ms Bavin also provided Board members with a report on a projected fund balance of \$1,720,926 for June 30, 2007. Mr. McPherson commented that he would not want to see the fund balance fall below \$1 million.

The Board members discussed the amount they would be comfortable using from the undesignated fund balance to reduce the mill rate. Mr. McPherson and Ms. Fearon commented that they would want to see the percentage increase stay below 5%.

Mr. Goldberg noted that an unanticipated item coming up that could be costly will be the search for the new school superintendent.

After discussion, on motion made by Mr. Pardo, and seconded by Ms. Tung, the Board voted unanimously to include State Revenue in the amount of \$2,248,245 in the mill rate calculation.

On motion made by Ms. Fearon, and seconded by Mr. Pardo, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$300,000 of the prior year's Fund Balance to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes.

On motion made by Ms. Fearon, and seconded by Ms. Tung, the Board voted unanimously to set the mill rate for the 2007-2008 fiscal year at 23.35. This rate anticipates a tax collection rate of 98.5%

6. Discuss and take action on revising the sunset date of the Reserve for School Bus Parking Facility. On motion made by Ms. Tung, and seconded by Mr. Pardo, the Board voted unanimously to revise the sunset date for the Reserve for School Bus Parking Facility to June 30, 2008.

Mr. Pardo requested that the Board be provided with information on the current total in this fund.

7. Discuss and take action on special appropriation request of \$15,000 from Town Administration for projected expenditures for the balance of the fiscal year. Mr. McPherson noted that this item had been discussed during the budget process.

On motion made by Ms. Fearon, and seconded by Mr. Pardo, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of the First Selectman and approve a special appropriation of \$15,000 from Contingency to Account #1-100-8150-9999-2400-018-00, Town Administration to provide adequate funds for projected expenditures for the balance of the fiscal year.

8. The following line transfers are designated as routine and appropriate for approval as a single action by the Board of Finance, if so desired. A Board member may request removal of any transfer item from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

Motion: To approve Line Transfers totaling \$10,373.60.

On motion made by Mr. Pardo, and seconded by Ms. Tung, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve line item transfers totaling \$10,373.60 as outlined on the Town of Madison Summary of Line Transfer.

9. Discuss and take action on revising date of regular June Board of Finance meeting. On motion made by Ms. Fearon, and seconded by Ms. Tung, the Board voted unanimously to revise the schedule for the regular Board of Finance meetings and move the meeting scheduled for June 20, 2007 to June 27, 2007

10. Review of Financial reports. Ms. Bavin noted that it looks like there will be some savings in utilities. In response to a question, Ms. Bavin noted that she will be continuing to monitor any capital projects that might be able to be closed out.

11. Liaison Reports. Mr. Pardo noted that there will be a LoCap meeting on June 7.

Ms. Tung noted that the Board of Education had made necessary adjustments to their budget to accommodate the budget cuts. Many improvements to programming were able to be made with the new budget by moving a number of teacher positions. She also noted that it appears that enrollments in some schools may be less than projected.

Mr. McPherson noted that at the Library Committee meeting they had talked about what still needs to be done with the language in the agreement to protect the Town if the bond issue moves forward.

Ms. Fearon noted that the Town Center Committee is still waiting to hear from CL&P. A report on the landscaping was received which outlined which trees would come out and also noted plans for planting new trees. The report was done by the same company that did the landscaping for the Wall Street project.

Mr. Deephouse noted that a police officer was terminated after the appropriate disciplinary hearing and process. Mr. McPherson noted that he had read that the officer will still be eligible to collect his pension at age 55.

12. Report from First Selectman. There was no First Selectman report.

13. Citizen Comments. Mr. Deephouse requested that the Board of Education be asked to make a presentation to the Board of Finance on their consultant's latest enrollment projections for the next 10 years. Mr. McPherson agreed to discuss this with the Board of Education Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

Terry Holland-Buckley
Clerk