

MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

MEETING PLACE:

Hammonasset Room - Town Campus

Special Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Goldberg called the Special Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Kokoruda, Traugh, MacDougald, and Gladstone. Also present were Board of Finance members Kathy Rossini (Chairman), Owen Charles, Jennifer Tung, and Peggy Lyons. Also present were Town Attorney Bill Clendenen and Director of Finance Dotty Bavin.

First Selectman Goldberg noted that the primary focus of this Special Board of Selectmen meeting will be on the topic of legal issues and legal bills. The Town's legal bills have increased due to issues lingering from the past, issues in the present time, and the need to manage the Town's exposures to avoid future litigation, when possible. The decades' old reporting formats this Town's government followed for monitoring and managing legal bills is no longer adequate. As such, Town officials have just finished a process of completely revamping our reporting system. Tonight the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance will review the new format of reporting.

Attorney Bill Clendenen reviewed a copy of the "*Town of Madison - Police Re: Legal Matters*" policy which was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on August 26, 1996. That policy covers the relationship between the Town of Madison and the Town Attorney. He noted that some aspects of this policy are still very pertinent. He suggested that the Selectmen might wish to re-evaluate the entire policy statement to reaffirm or revise it.

At no charge to the Town, Attorney Clendenen's office has re-cataloged all of this year's billing statements in order to comply with the new report format. The new categorizing will better reflect fees by 'case.'

Attorney Clendenen remarked on the main factors which have increased legal fees:

- (1) police department - during last year's budget cycle, the full extent of the abuse to the citizens of Madison was not yet known, although it goes back a decade or more,
- (2) the 98 tax appeals which have cost the Town \$208,773,
- (3) the contract reopener with the Police Department,
- (4) dispatcher negotiations, and the
- (5) unearthing by the new Human Resources Manager of multiple employment and pension problems.

Jennifer Tung questioned the variations in the monthly billings.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to enter into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. Town Council Bill Clendenen and Director of Finance Dotty Bavin were invited to remain in Executive Session to discuss strategy.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

1. Discuss Legal Issues

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman MacDougald to exit Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

First Selectman Goldberg called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:20 p.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Gladstone, Kokoruda, Traugh, and MacDougald.

2. Discuss Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget

DISCUSSION: None

3. Adjournment

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary