

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET SUMMIT II MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER: Chm. Woods called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present: Chairman Julie Woods, Vice Chair Kevin Kuros, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Stack, Sel. Dwyer, Town Manager Jill R. Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

Chm. Maharay called the Finance Committee's meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present: Chm. Ed Maharay, Mark Andrews, Howard Fortner, Christine Horwath, Richard Young and Finance Director David Genereux. Peter Demers and Mary Pat Wickstrom were not present.

Vice Chm. James Haynes called the School Committee's meeting to order at 7:00 pm, however noting no quorum. The following persons were present: James Haynes, Jane Keegan, Michelle Taparausky, Superintendent Dan Stefanilo, and School Business Manager Don Sawyer. Chm. Ernie Esposito, Mason Seagrave, John Higgins and Peter Baghdasarian were not present.

BUDGET SUMMIT II: Chm. Maharay reviewed the agenda and the FY09 (& Beyond) Budget Plan. (Copies of the documents are attached to these minutes).

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from Budget Summit I

MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed 4-0. Sel. Dwyer was not present for the vote.

MSDV by Mark Andrews, seconded by Rick Young to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

No action by the School Committee, however, Ms. Taparausky noted name spelling corrections.

Input from Committees on FY09 Budget priorities & services (Homework assignments)

Chm. Maharay asked the BOS to report. Chm. Woods noted that the BOS met three times and there is a consensus among them to:

- Support public safety and that the Library and Senior Center (COA) should remain open, although there should be continued review of those department budgets;
- Capital improvements must have a line item in the budget;
- The BOS supports presenting a balanced budget with a supplemental budget at Town Meeting. Chm. Woods ended by informing the public that the BOS is committed to look at regionalization, insurance and union contracts for 2010 on.

Vice Chm. Haynes noted the School Committee priorities as follows:

1. Accredited High School
2. Address School-Choice

Mr. Haynes stated the School Committee also feels that the Senior Center and Library are necessary. He noted that they had a difficult time prioritizing the capital improvements when facing possible cuts. Mr. Haynes ended by stating that the School Committee feels a Capital Planning Fund is also necessary.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET SUMMIT II MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2007

Vice Chm. Mark Andrews of the Finance Committee noted that they had various discussions.

- The Finance Committee agrees a balanced budget needs to be presented;
- In regard to the Senior Center there is a consensus not close the doors. However, the closing of the Library raised some mixed emotions; some of the committee feels the Library must remain open while others feel it should be regionalized;
- The Finance Committee hopes there is a fix for healthcare for FY10;
- The Committee has strong support for capital projects and feels the new high school should be included in the CIP.

Review/Status of New High School; Costs

Superintendent Dan Stefanilo provided an update, and explained that the process is at a standstill at the moment. He stated that the School Building Committee has met with the architect and are waiting to hear from the SBA. Supt. Stefanilo stated he hopes to hear within one month from the SBA in regards to the cost and whether or not the building of a new high school grant is approved. He stated after that they will be able to determine the reimbursement expectation. Supt. Stefanilo ended by suggesting that Chm. of the School Building Committee John Higgins when the information is received comeback and provide another update. Chm. Maharay asked Supt. Stefanilo when he expects the new school to come on-line. Supt. Stefanilo responded by saying they will be informed in one month and hopefully a vote in the spring can happen and if approved then 2 years out, possibly 2010.

Review of Capital Needs

Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee Jack McCarthy provided the public with a review of the Fiscal 2008 Capital Recommendations. (A copy is attached to these minutes). Chm. McCarthy explained that the capital plan has been pushed back for many years and every year pushed back the needs become greater. He explained that the committee looked at the Charter criteria in the beginning of this process. After reviewing the spreadsheet Chm. McCarthy explained that he realizes there is a lot on the table for the first year; he noted some items may be able to be postponed. He did state that one item had been given priority status that being the replacement of engine one. He stated that the Town is clearly at a point of how it affects the quality of life by pushing off capital projects. He ended by saying not supporting the needs will carry a great responsibility. Chm. Maharay asked if the list provided had been prioritized. Chm. McCarthy stated that the list has not been prioritized, at the time all of the projects for FY08 were of priority. Sel. Kuros asked what the next step is now the plan is laid out. The Town Manager responded by saying the next step is to receive recommendations based on funding of the priorities. Finance Director David Genereux explained that an override is an ongoing revenue source of funding and a debt exclusion is a one time borrowing which expires when the debt is paid off and thus removed as a revenue source when retired. He went on to explain that there are two types of capital exclusions, he noted that capital fund is the best way to go but, usually the hardest to sell. Michelle Taparausky asked if there could possibly be different leasing options for the fire truck. Mr. Genereux stated that it is possible, and there are constraints to borrowing for items dependent on their useful life - usually five years in the accounting sense but in reality they last much longer, a lease term would be similar. The BOS may borrow for longer terms, but usually the max is ten years.

Information on tax implications

Chm. Woods asked the amount of an average tax bill. Finance Director informed the public that the average tax bill is \$3,962.00 based on an average value of 333,900.00.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET SUMMIT II MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2007**

Comments/questions/concerns

Chm. Maharay recommended that each individual committee define the benchmarks prior to Budget Summit III. Jane Keegan asked if the BOS and School Committee could soon meet in executive session to discuss union negotiations. Chm. Woods suggested possibly meeting on 10/22.

Assignment - Recommendation of Boards on operating and capital needs

Chm. Maharay explained that the homework assignment will be to complete the FY09 (&Beyond) Budget Plan worksheet, and thanked everyone for their responses.

ADJOURNMENT (Budget Summit III is scheduled for November 7, 2007): At 8:45pm,

MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Potaski to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0, Sel. Dwyer had departed the meeting. .

MSDV by Mark Andrews, seconded by Rick Young to adjourn. The motion passed 5-0.

The School Committee did not have a quorum for action.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Tracy Leavitt, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen*

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

Chairman Julie A. Woods

Sel. James F. Dwyer

V. Chairman Kevin J. Kuros

Sel. Dan Stack

Clerk Michael Potaski

MSDV: Moved, Seconded, Discussed & Voted

RCV: Roll Call Vote

Minutes approved by Finance Committee:

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET SUMMIT II MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2007**

Chairman Ed Maharay

Mark Andrews

Peter Demers

Howard Fortner

Christine Horwath

Mary Pat Wickstrom

Richard Young

MSDV: Moved, Seconded, Discussed & Voted
RCV: Roll Call Vote