

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN, FINANCE COMMITTEE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUDGET SUMMIT III MEETING MINUTES**

**November 7, 2007
High School Library**

CALL TO ORDER: Chm. Woods called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:08 pm. The following persons were present: Chairman Julie Woods, Vice Chair Kevin Kuros, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Stack, Town Manager Jill R. Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

Chm. Maharay called the Finance Committee's meeting to order at 7:08 pm. The following persons were present: Chm. Ed Maharay, Mark Andrews, Peter Demers, Christine Horwath, Richard Young and Finance Director David Genereux. Absent: FinComm members Mary Pat Wickstrom and Howard Fortner.

Chm. Esposito called the School Committee's meeting to order at 7:08 pm. The following persons were present: Chm. Ernest ("Ernie") Esposito, Jim Haynes, John Higgins, Michelle Taparausky, Superintendent Dan Stefanilo, and School Business Manager Don Sawyer. Absent: School Committee members Peter Baghdasarian, Mason Seagrave and Jane Keegan.

BUDGET SUMMIT III Chm. Maharay reviewed the agenda (a copy is attached to these minutes); he noted that there might be a need for a 4th session. Chm. Maharay suggested that the individual committees review the meeting minutes from the second Budget Summit on 10/10/07. Chm. Maharay reviewed the document he crafted entitled "Report of the Budget Summit 2007" (a copy is attached to these minutes). Chm. Maharay then asked for input on the previous homework assignments questions.

Fin Comm. Vice Chm. Mark Andrews reported that the majority of the Committee thinks the public will not support an operational override. Members of Fin Comm. do not support the override either. The Finance Committee thinks taxes should not be increased other than for a capital override.

Chm. Woods spoke on behalf of the Selectmen. She stated that discussion of an override maybe premature considering the number for free cash. She noted that one member supports and three members went on record to not block the vote. Chm. Woods stated that the BOS reached consensus to look at and support the Capital requirement requests and also that they need to be included in the budget. Chm. Woods ended by saying the Selectmen found it premature to discuss taxes until the numbers are finalized.

Chm. Esposito of the School Committee informed the public that the School Committee did not hold a regularly scheduled meeting and has not formally met since the last Budget Summit and that the committee was unable to vote in regard to the override. Michelle Taparausky stated that she thinks the discussion of an override is premature. In regard to Capital requirement requests the Committee thinks it needs to be included in the budget but, discussion is still needed to decide on priorities. The Committee did not have a formal discussion regarding taxes.

Chm. Maharay asked Finance Director to review the document entitled "Budget Summit FY08 Thru FY11 Forecast" (A copy is attached to these minutes). Chm. Maharay reminded the public that the documents are not a proposal only a demonstration. Finance Director Genereux then reviewed his memo entitled "Budget Summit Financial Forecast" (a copy is attached to these minutes). Mr. Genereux informed the public that there are only two real options, budget cuts and growth at a certain rate or increase revenue. Mr. Genereux noted that the Department Heads have not seen this forecast. Mr. Genereux ended by asking if the forecast is considered, could both the Municipal and School side live with 2%.

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Chm. Maharay reviewed Table D (part of attachments) briefly. Chm. Maharay stated a fourth session will be needed once the school information is received. Jim Haynes asked how stabilization comes into play. Chm. Maharay stated that with the Free Cash figure after the Articles at Town Meeting money would be transferred back into stabilization.

Chm. Maharay reviewed Table C (part of attachments). Chm. Maharay asked if there is a general consensus for road and bridges at \$560,000 year through prop. 2 ½? Jim Haynes asked what happens if we do not spend all the money or eventually it is not needed? Mr. Genereux responded by saying usually it is carried over to the next year, or if it is never needed two things could happen: either it could be used for operational budgets or vote to have a municipal override. Sel. Kuros questioned the total number regarding vehicle replacement. Chm. Maharay said the Boards and Committees can either choose to trust the work done by the Capital Planning Committee or not, and then we must decide if it is a priority or not. The discussion then began about the need for specificity and the override i.e. supplemental budget or general. Sel. Kuros does not feel it needs to be specific. However, Peter Demers, Chm. Woods and Michelle Taparousky all agree it does need to be specific. Sel. Kuros stated he agrees the capital needs ought to be identified, but he is not comfortable coming back in 1-2 years to deal with non-vehicle. Mark Andrews stated he thinks specificity is needed and thinks most citizens will not vote in favor of an override if they do not know exactly what they are voting. Christine Horwath feels an un-specified override will not sell. Sel. Stack agrees specificity is needed. Chm. Maharay provided a brief re-cap in regard to the consensus for road and bridges at \$560,000 and vehicle replacement at \$240,000. Chm. Maharay then returned to the FY09 budget discussion. He asked what information is needed going forward to make an informed decision on how the budget should go. He asked that everyone be prepared with an answer at the next meeting. Chm. Maharay suggested that the School Committee be prepared to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Chm. Maharay ended by stating that the fourth Budget Summit will take place on December 12, 2007 and the Board of Selectmen, Fin Comm. and School Committee should be prepared with their presentations.

ADJOURNMENT (Budget Summit IV is scheduled for December 12, 2007): At 8:59 p.m.

- **BOS – Motion by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack, to adjourn; unanimous approval.**
- **Finance Committee – Motion by Mark Andrews, seconded by Richard Young, to adjourn; unanimous approval.**
- **School Committee – Motion by Jim Haynes, seconded by Michelle Taparousky, to adjourn; unanimous approval.**

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

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Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

Chairman Julie A. Woods

V. Chairman Kevin J. Kuros

Clerk Michael Potaski

Sel. Dan Stack

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Minutes approved by Finance Committee:

Chairman Ed Maharay

Mark Andrews

Peter Demers

Howard Fortner

Christine Horwath

Mary Pat Wickstrom

Richard Young

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Minutes approved by School Committee:

Chairman Ernest Esposito

Peter Baghdasarian

James Haynes

Mason Seagrave

John Higgins

Jane Keegan

Michelle Taparausky