

Received
January 21, 2015
Laura Halloran
Assistant Town Clerk

Board of Finance Meeting
January 14, 2015 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Members Present, Tracy Martin, Ron Emanuel, Ed Dorsett, Lisa Weik, Barbara Burch (by phone), Selectman Aiello and Birkett, members of the public.

Absent: Jessica McDonald, Larry Sweeney, and Scott Pottbecker

Motion to appoint Ed Dorsett for Scott Pottbecker made by Lisa Weik, 2nd Tracy Martin. Motion carried.

Board of Selectman's Update; Mr. Aiello had nothing to report, Mr. Birkett had nothing to report

Correspondence;

Memo from Tax Collector, Launa Goslee

Per Tax Collector, Launa Goslee; needs approval for suspense list. Suspense of outstanding tax bills to be deemed uncollectable per year.

Motion to add approval of suspense to the agenda as per memo received by Launa Goslee, Tax Collector for fiscal year 2013-2014, made by Tracy Martin, 2nd Ed Dorsett. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 2013/2014 Suspense List as submitted by Launa Goslee, Tax Collector In the amount of \$2,308.66, by Ed Dorsett, 2nd Tracy Martin. Motion carried.

Correspondence from Attorneys Halloran and Sage, appearance notices that Halloran and Sage will be representing the 1st Selectman and the Library Director at the upcoming FOIC hearing.

Email from Tracy Martin, Board of Finance Clerk, to Fiscal Office/Treasurer was discussed. Request for the General Ledger to the Fiscal Office has been forwarded to the 1st Selectman's office from the Fiscal Office. We will receive reports ONLY on the 1st of the month. If further information is needed from the fiscal office, than a date and time has to be set up on an as needed basis.

Ron Emanuel read the Auditor's Update email; no discussion

Assessor's Report: Tax assessor not present, no report.

Launa Goslee, tax collector, reported that she found this tax glitch when she was

questioned by residents regarding erroneous tax bills. To date, she estimates \$127,600 in uncollectable tax dollars (approximation overall). There is a question of the Veterans exemptions, and there may be more people that are affected and the number could get higher. \$108,672 has been deleted from tax report due to an adjustment by tax assessor; plus \$1,200 in partial exemptions. \$110,000 looks to be due to computer error. All of the figures are still forthcoming.

John Lilly in speaking on behalf of town veterans reported Harwinton is going through the same problem. According to Mr. Lilly, 110 Veterans in town, over 66 could be not seeing their tax bills due to multiple reasons, and therefore not knowing if they got their exemption or not. Could be a sizable amount of money concerning our Veterans. Asking for an audit of these bills to make sure that the taxes be corrected.

The Board of Finance showed emails back and forth since November asking for clarification, including an email stating that the tax assessor on 12/20 stating that she would be on the agenda on 1/14/15. There was no reply to this request. Ed Dorsett has contacted OPM (Office of Policy and Management); The 2013 M13 and M13A reports have not been sent in from Morris from our tax assessor according to OPM, on which information listed regarding the exemptions by be found.

Carla Hamel (member of the public); reporting that if the M13 and M13A reports were filed on time, it would have shown up. Commented on incomplete information reported to OPM.

Lisa Weik; reported on motor vehicle Total Exemptions for motor vehicle from 2011 \$124,760; 2012 = \$0, 2013 = \$0 and expressed concerns over the discrepancy from 2011 to 2012 and 2103.

Motion by Ron Emanuel that the board of finance request from the selectman present that our tax revenue shortfall be addressed ASAP with the tax assessor, treasurer, and collector, to put together a report of what our financial state is, by the end of January, 2nd by Ed Dorsett. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron Emanuel; board of finance to request 2011, 2012, 2013 tax exemption list. Also Board of Finance request that the selectman and the first selectman review those lists for potential errors. 2nd by Ed Dorsett. Motion carried.

Budget Review:

2013/2014; Auditor letter review. Reported still on track for 1/31st deadline.

Annual reports have been coming in and Ron will make copies for the board of finance members for next week.

Motion by Lisa Weik, to add Launa Goslee, Tax Collector, to speak and be added to the agenda. 2nd by Tracy Martin. Motion carried.

Had an important piece of equipment that needs to be replaced in the Tax Collector's office.. Epson TM-U-675 Validator.

Motion by Ed Dorsett to approve \$375 for tax collector to replace this piece of equipment. To be taken out of computer line item. 2nd by Tracy Martin
Motion carried.

2014/2015 Budget;

2015/2016 Budgets;

Bantam Lake Authority Budget: Motion to have Bantam Lake Authority come in next week to present their budgets, sent out by Vice Chair, Barbara Burch, by Barbara Burch. 2nd by Ed Dorsett. Motion Carried.

Chore Service Assessment received.

Conservation Commission: Motion by Barbara Burch to set the Conservation Commission to \$500, 2nd by Tracy Martin. Motion Carried.

Erica Matthews, Planning and Zoning Chairman, reports that she has been unable to receive her budget forms.

Motion that Ron Emanuel ask the fiscal office to get the budget work sheet form for the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning, by Ed Dorsett, 2nd by Tracy Martin. Motion carried.

Motion by Ed Dorsett, 2nd by Barbara Burch to accept the minutes of January 7, 2015, as written. Motion carried.

Outstanding requests to treasurer/fiscal office.

Ron Emmanuel has recommended to wait to the auditor sends a draft on the 31st of January.

Outstanding requests to first selectman's office regarding the general ledger; no response on the general ledger.

Discussion regarding payment for copies of the general ledger if Ron Emanuel requests a copy. Ron is to look into the fact that the town has paid for the legal Vinnie Aiello and Anne Carr, as pirate citizens, in their respective cases with FOIC against the Board of Finance. Table discussion until next meeting.

Motion by Ed Dorsett that we send the memo that he drafted to all boards and commissions in response to the memo sent out by the 1st selectman to ignore

our request. 2nd by Barbara Burch. Motion carried.

Selectman Vinnie Aiello reported that there will be \$5,000 surplus in the Fringe Benefit/Health Insurance line items (over all). The Board of Finance asked that the correct figures be given to us.

FOIA; Ron Emanuel will hand out copies of the formal complaint file at next meeting.

Selectman's Agenda; no response to the Board of Finance regarding being added to the Selectman's Meetings Agenda.

New Business:

Town of Morris, CT tax reevaluation, was done. To be put on agenda for next week to see if people have been notified as to their reevaluation.

Budgets; Barbara Burch recommended that if we do not get the budgets by Jan. 31, we will move on and use the figures that we had last year.

Motion made by Barbara Burch; any budgets that are not received by January 31, by the Board of Finance, then the board of finance will generate the departments/commissions budget based on last year's budget. 2nd by Lisa Weik. Motion carried.

State Statute regarding department heads being held personally responsible for going over budgets was discussed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm made by Ed Dorsett, 2nd by Lisa Weik. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Martin
Board of Finance Clerk