

Town of East Haddam
Board of Finance
March 18, 2008
Special Meeting

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., at the River House, by Chairman Paul Maxwell.

In attendance were Paul Maxwell, Matthew Budzik, Sue Link, Bob Bennett and Dave Meade.

Also in attendance were First Selectman Mark Walter, Stephanie Tatro, Chief Don Angersola, Matt Calovis and Ruth Ziobron.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Firefighters Budget

Line item 741 was reviewed. Mrs. Tatro did not provide the updated Firefighters Budget.

Chief Angersola informed the board that the Fire Commission intended to apply for the annual Homeland Security Grant. This grant will require a 5% contribution of the total amount from the town equating to approximately \$2,800. The total grant amount will be approximately \$57,000. Chief Angersola informed the board he needed town approval for contributions of \$2,800 prior to applying for the grant (5% of the grant money). The grant money will be used to purchase 20 sets of gear, training (\$5,400) and pagers (10 for \$500).

Chief Angersola informed the board that last year, there was no grant money and the year prior, approximately \$350,000 was received. First Selectman Walter questioned if the wording of the grant was different this year than last. Mrs. Tatro replied she did not have a chance to read it. Chief Angersola stated Mrs. Tatro would be reviewing the grant prior to submittal, it is due April 3rd.

First Selectman Walter reviewed the discussions at Selectmen's meeting regarding the Ambulance Association. It is the opinion of the Selectmen that incentive pay for the Ambulance Association should come from them, because they are a private corporation and not from the town. Currently, the town does not provide incentive pay to their employees. Financially, the town is not in a position to hire two new full time ambulance employees or fire fighters. The Selectmen are proposing the hiring of an EMT certified Public Works employee. This employee would be available to go out on daytime ambulance runs and maintain town property. The Board of Selectmen will work on clarifying this position in upcoming months. Funds have been included in the Selectmen's budget. Chief Angersola stated he knew of people in town that would qualify for this position and agreed this position would be helpful.

Mr. Calovis distributed and discussed a document titled "Phasing in a Track Team", requesting \$25,000. Mr. Calovis reviewed discussions with the Board of Education. Mr. Calovis stated there was a huge interest of nearly 60 students. Mrs. Tatro questioned if the ongoing maintenance fee would be \$25,000 to which Mr. Calovis replied no, that it would be less. Mr. Maxwell informed Mr. Calovis that the Track Team proposal needed to be approved and included in the Board of Education budget.

Mr. Carroll has locked in on Board of Education Employee benefits. The board discussed employee health options. The Selectmen will include employee health benefits in their budget. First Selectman Walter stated he projected to have a Selectmen's budget for the Board of Finance's Thursday meeting.

Mr. Budzik stated of the importance of submitting a complete budget. The Board of Finance does not like to approve unbudgeted items during the fiscal year. This allows for clear disclosure during the approval of the budget at the town meeting.

First Selectman Walter stated the real estate conveyance tax would stay in the revenue portion of the budget.

The board requested the following documents from Mrs. Tatro:

- Revenue, capital, educational summary page;
- Five year averages;
- Current year to date figures;
- Budget to actual revenues for 2006-2007 final results;
- Where trending to date 2007-2008;
- Budgeted 2008-2009;
- Trends in revenue lines.

First Selectman Walter questioned the five year Selectmen averages for capital improvements. Mrs. Tatro replied the actual was approximately \$190,000. First Selectman Walter questioned if the actual average could be used as opposed to funding it with pay backs from a grant reimbursement. Mr. Bennett stated it needed to be proposed in the Selectmen's budget before the board could make a decision. Mrs. Tatro explained that at the Board of Selectmen's meeting, there was discussion regarding taking left over Board of Education funds and appropriating them from the undesignated fund balance to be designated for a Board of Education Capital Reserve line item. Mr. Meade stated the board needed to be presented with the full budget before discussing details. Mr. Budzik stated the Board of Education would need to present an overview of the improvement projects which would be funded by the proposed Capital Reserve line item.

First Selectman Walter informed the board of recent crimes in town. Homes have been vandalized. Firearms, copper and metal have been stolen.

There was discussion of desired budget format.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Meade at 7:45 p.m. to adjourn. Second by Mr. Bennett and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

David Meade
Secretary