

Special Board of Finance
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, 2016
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Meeting Minutes-AMENDED

1. Call to order

Loraine Coe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Loraine Coe, Rosemarie Naples, Chuck Stengel, Martin Anderson, Molly Nolan

Absent: Laurie Tuttle

Others in attendance: Maryjane Malavasi, Laura Francis, Carleton Stoup, John Jenkins, Sue Wimler, Andy Meiman, Martin French, Kim Garvis

2. Public comment

3. Additional Appropriations

a. Public Works Trailer

John Jenkins was present to advise the Board that two mowers recently purchased do not fit on the current trailer. He stated that the department currently has two trailers; one about fifteen to twenty years old and the other about two years old. He received three quotes, one through State Contract and two other through local vendors. He presented the lowest quote from Trailer Depot for the purchase of a new trailer that will accommodate the two mowers in the amount of \$3,250 less \$400 for the trade in of the two existing trailers. He also noted that earlier in the year a public works truck was sold on Municibid for \$4,600 that was unexpected revenue that will go into the fund balance at the end of the year. Board members discussed the purchase taking into consideration the unexpected revenue serving as an offset.

MOTION BY ROSEMARIE NAPLES, SECONDED BY MARTIN ANDERSON TO TRANSFER \$2,850 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUNDS TO #9430305-57391 EQUIPMENT-PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRAILER. ANDERSON, NOLAN, NAPLES, COE; AYE. STENGEL; OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Transfer Station Regional Project

Laura Francis stated that the Lower River Valley Council of Governments put forth an RFP for consulting services to assess the operations and facilities of municipal solid waste transfer stations. The assessment will be based on adherence to Federal (EPA), State (CT DEEP), and peer municipality best practices. The report will identify strengths and weaknesses of the transfer stations studied and outline improvements that can be made. The consultant will work collaboratively with the participating municipalities, Durham, Middlefield, Old Saybrook and Haddam, and also RiverCOG on the project. Tentative timeline for completion is October 31, 2016. RiverCOG will be responsible for all contract deliverables. The project cost is \$27,520, Durham's portion is \$6,250, Middlefield \$6,250,

Old Saybrook \$10,021, and Haddam \$4,999 since they have just completed a new transfer station project.

MOTION BY MARTIN ANDERSON, SECONDED BY MOLLY NOLAN TO TRANSFER \$6,250 FROM CONTINGENCY TO #411105-53010 OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN-PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DURHAM'S PORTION OF THE REGIONAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION ASSESSMENT. ALL AYE

4. 2016-2017 Budget

a. Elected Official Salaries

L. Francis asked what the Board's reasoning was behind the decision to not give elected officials salary increases for fy16-17. R. Naples stated that the general consensus of the Board was to review elected official salaries in next year budget process. M. Anderson stated that he was not at the meeting when this was decided and felt it was an economic decision and nothing to do with the performance of the individuals. She asked the Board what their goals or strategy was towards salaries and staff and stated that she would help them achieve those goals. L. Coe stated in the past they treated all staff the same and tried to do different this year for taxpayers, they picked the smallest group, reviewed documentation supplied by the Compensation Review Board, and did not want to go over the average of comparable towns. L. Francis asked if they were looking to get all salaries at market and questioned what market might be. She noted that the union contract raises were negotiated below state average. L. Coe stated that the Board needed to discuss as a group when elected officials should be considered for an increase; yearly, bi-yearly, or every four years. Martin French stated he felt the Board predicated the number on just a smaller group when it should be on a wide variety. L. Coe stated the Board would need to address this after budget season. M. French encouraged the Board to include elected officials in the discussion. M. Anderson talked about a prior salary survey that was commissioned that was set aside for several reasons and noted that there were no basic fundamentals at hand. L. Francis stated that they do have a grading system. M. Malavasi stated she continues to use the old salary guide as a tool for new hires.

b. Middlesex Paramedics

L. Coe reminded Board members that funds were put into reserve at the last meeting. She stated the Middlesex Paramedic's PSA is for the Durham and 18 other towns in the Middlesex Area. Laura Francis stated that Middlesex Paramedics provides coverage to 19 towns and her priority was protecting service to Durham residents. She was present to request that the funds be made available in the fy16-17 budget because of the potential gap between July 1 and town meeting; during this time, Medicare patients could be liable for costs incurred. She explained that towns that are not in favor of spreading the cost to provide paramedic services to all tax payers, will be part of the new model in which they will "un-bundle" the billing with those town ambulance associations and direct bill residents who required paramedic services. L. Francis noted that 88 residents required this service last year and would have been billed at an average cost of \$584 each if there was no bundle billing. She stated that she was not sure how easy it would be to pull agreements that were currently in place and reiterated that the town has no other options for paramedic service at the current time. She again expressed that she has an obligation to

protect the delivery of services with no disruption. She noted that Middlesex is willing to work with towns going forward to make the agreement more palatable. An oversight council will be formed where 50% of the members will be from participating towns and if asked to participate, she would do so. S. Wimler questioned why they would have separate agreements with Portland and Cromwell and took issue with the way they are charging in relationship to the amount of paramedics on standby. Andy Meiman felt that the data collection was not perfect and if they had good numbers, would put the town in a better position when having this discussion with Middlesex. He felt that they are strong arming towns by severing the bundle billing program if they do not participate. L. Coe stated that they provided no data, number or nature of calls that they respond to. L. Francis talked about the cost of the annual salary of a paramedic in relationship to the cost of this program. C. Stengel suggested entering into a one-year contract with Middlesex and reassessing the program before extending the contract another year. He asked L. Francis to partake in the oversight council if requested and also asked that members from the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corp attend the meetings. M. Anderson noted his concern with the potential of large expenditures to residents and M. Nolan stated she did not want to see a gap in services.

MOTION BY CHUCK STENDEL, SECONDED BY MOLLY NOLAN TO MOVE \$7,388 FROM RESERVE TO #420710-53540 IN THE 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET. ALL AYE

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata