

**APPROVED**  
**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2010**

A special meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Monday, November 29, 2010 in the Ridgefield Community Center at 10:00 p.m. after a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen; The Board of Education and The Board of Finance.

Members Present: Peter Gomez, Chairman; Jill Bornstein, Vice Chairman; Marty Heiser; David Ulmer and Margaret Price Sims

Town Officials: Rudy Marconi, First Selectman; Kevin Redmond, Controller; Paul Hendrickson, Business Manager, BOE; Dr. Deborah Low, Supt. Of Schools; Karen Berasi; Amy Shinohara; and John Palermo, Board of Education.

**A G E N D A**

1. Approval of the October 19, 2010 Board of Finance Meeting Minutes
2. Tax Collector's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. BOE Financial Review – Paul Hendrickson
5. MIRMA Assessment – Rudy Marconi
6. Town Financial Review – Kevin Redmond
7. Old Business
  - a. New Business
  - b. Communications & Correspondence
8. Adjournment

Mr. Gomez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETINGS' MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Heiser and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the Minutes of the Board of Finance's October 19, 2010 meeting.

Vote: 4-0-1. (Mr. Gomez abstained) Motion APPROVED.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2011						Prior YTD	08-09 YTD	07-08 YTD
TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (\$ in millions)					%	as %	as %	as %
	BUDGET	Q1	Oct	YTD	Collected	of Actual	of Actual	of Actual
<b>Current Taxes</b>	\$109.7	\$33.1	\$21.4	\$54.5	49.70%	49.81%	49.79%	50.88%
<b>Supplemental MV</b>	\$0.6	\$-			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Prior Year Clctns</b>	\$0.6	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.3	59.86%	52.61%	41.13%	51.63%
<b>Int. &amp; Lien Fees</b>	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$-	\$0.1	25.05%	52.55%	21.64%	27.72%
<b>As of 10/31/10</b>	\$111.3	\$33.4	\$21.6	\$55.0	49.41%	49.86%	49.63%	50.82%

Ms. Berendsen-Hill reported that: "Everything is trending well, including prior year taxes."

Mr. Ulmer noted a "big jump in one month" and Ms. Berendsen-Hill said that real estate sales have picked up in the lower price range and some of them have paid off delinquent back taxes.

Mr. Gomez reported that he met with Tax Assessor, Al Garzi a week ago. As is his custom, Mr. Garzi was very non-committal about the upcoming grand list. Mr. Gomez asked Ms. Berendsen-Hill if she had any insights on the supplemental motor vehicle list and Ms. Berendsen-Hill responded: "Not until he (Mr. Garzi) tells me."

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Investments as of		
10/31/2010		
	<u>Amnt Invested</u>	
MBIA	\$5.13	0.24
Mrl Lynch/BOA	\$251,048.31	1.25
Ridgefield Bank	\$9,064,728.87	0.23
STIF	\$465,603.35	0.22
Union Savings-MMA	\$ 222,713.93	0.24
Union Savings	\$12,529,658.39	0.60
Wachovia	\$3,358,487.49	0.35
	\$25,892,245.47	
YTD Interest Earned		
Mrl Lynch/BOA	\$1,048.31	
Ridgefield Bank	\$4,984.79	
STIF	\$141.39	
Union Savings	\$15,375.65	
Wachovia	\$900.02	
	\$ 22,450.16	

The Board of Finance continues to be somewhat mystified by the Treasurer's reluctance to commit funds to longer-term investments yielding slightly higher returns. Ms. Bornstein offered to meet with the Town Treasurer to discuss this. Mr. Ulmer observed that 1% of \$4MM = \$40k.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION YTD FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Mr. Hendrickson reported that this was his first full year forecast for this year because there have only been five pay days for teachers. He noted that turn over was not quite as projected. Fuel oil and electricity costs are somewhat under budget (\$125k ytd) due to milder weather. Special education costs are over budget by \$125k. There was a CES semester payment that should run out over the next several months. General Services has a negative variance of \$877k. There was a \$930k pension contribution for OPEB (other post employment benefits). The transportation budget is on schedule. One large payment was made in September, the next will be made in February.

Regarding the school buildings projects: The High School building project final report has undergone a few drafts, and a final report should be issued before Christmas. If the Town does not agree with the State's report, it will meet with the audit department in Hartford to hammer out the differences. East Ridge: Mr. Marconi is working on O & G for the necessary change-order documentation.

Barlow Mt.: Boiler #2 has "failed". It has cracks and needs to be replaced. Boiler #3 had a "cracked section" which was repaired with a section removed from boiler #2. The Board of Education wants to replace boiler #2 and will make a request for an emergency appropriation.

Branchville Boiler: The BOE had requested \$380k for this boiler. Bids came in for \$340K, \$314k, and \$266k. \$114k remains from that capital appropriation because of the lower cost (the boiler runs on oil only instead of being able to run on oil or natural gas) of the boiler and because there was less asbestos removal required than anticipated. The new boiler is up and running well. The BOE would like to re-designate the funds remaining from the Branchville boiler projects to Barlow Mountain, with \$64k for the #2 boiler replacement and \$20k for repairs to the #3 boiler. Mr. Ulmer noted that the first step is to move the funds into a building account in the General Fund and then transfer them into the General Fund. Mr. Marconi said a vote needs to take place for that transfer to happen and after that it requires a Town meeting.

Mr. Gomez suggested the BOE find the necessary funds within its operating budget. He noted that the "boiler report" put together by Town Engineer, Charlie Fisher; and school personnel made no mention of the Barlow Mountain boiler.

### **MIRMA ASSESSMENT**

Mr. Marconi explained that MIRMA was formed in 2002 when the State legislature gave MIRMA the okay to go ahead and organize. MIRMA offered lower rate workmen's compensation insurance. MIRMA is a pool, and when you join you are jointly responsible for the losses. In January of last year it looked like Ridgefield's share that loss was \$1MM. In March and April Mr. Marconi started getting a breakdown, spreading of expense over give payments, with one sixth paid up front. MIRMA was unable to produce documentation to support the alleged loss. A group of twenty-five Town was formed which group challenged the MIRMA Board. The group requested a new audit. Ridgefield paid \$174k from its Insurance Account, taken from a balance of \$300k. The next payment, \$200k, is due in April and is a 60/40 split between the Town (60%) and the BOE (40%). Ms. Bornstein asked if the payments would appear in the BOS's and the BOE's budgets. Mr. Marconi said the Town could have a payment due this fiscal year and it could take some of the money out of the Insurance fund which has about \$95k left. According to the contract, if the municipalities do not pay, they can be sued. The Town now uses Traveler's Insurance for workmen's compensation insurance.

### **TOWN FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Ms. Bornstein asked about the interest line which was a negative number for October. Mr. Redmond said he thought that was a "timing" issue.

Mr. Gomez noted that Parks & Recreation's program costs were 40% spent. He said it scares him when P & R keeps missing on its revenue projections and has to make it up on the expense side. Mr. Ulmer said that P & R has laid off four people in the last two years because of falling revenues.

Ms. Sims noted the Fire Department's overtime line. Mr. Redmond explained that people have left the Department and some people are out on disability.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Bornstein to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 p.m.

Vote: 4-0. Motion APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Rodgers, Recording Secretary