

APPROVED BOARD OF FINANCE MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

A special meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 in the large conference room in Town Hall at 7:30 pm

Members Present: Marty Heiser, Chairman; Peter Gomez, Vice Chairman; David Ulmer; Jill Bornstein
Members Absent: None
Town Officials: Kevin Redmond, Controller

AGENDA

- Open meeting
- Public comments
- Executive Session - Discussion with and review of candidates interested in the open Board of Finance position.
- Adjournment

Mr. Heiser called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and discussed the procedures for the interviews. Candidates would have the option of being interviewed in public or could choose to interview in private, under executive session. Mr. Heiser opened the meeting for public comment

- Kathie McGerald spoke in favor of all interviews being in public.
- Irene Burgess had a question for a candidate, however, Mr. Gomez interjected that it was not appropriate that the public comment portion of the meeting be used for candidate questions
- Keith Namiot stated that his interview would be in public

At 7:45 pm, the interviews began.

Interview with Keith Namiot

Mr. Namiot opted for a public interview. Members of the Board of Finance questioned Mr. Namiot on various issues. Mr. Namiot discussed his background, with a focus on his experience in the areas of increasing efficiencies and cost containment. Mr. Namiot discussed fund balance and stated that it was very important to maintain the Town's AAA rating and that it is important that the Town "live with in its means". Mr. Namiot noted that if selected, we would devote whatever time is necessary to the position, and that he has learned quite a bit about the elective process recently.

Interview with Chris Murray

Mr. Murray opted that the interview be in private and the meeting went into executive session at 8:10 pm.

Interview with Margaret Price Sims

Ms. Sims opted that the interview be in private and the meeting remained in executive session until 9:05 pm.

Interview with Ed Tyrrell

Mr. Tyrrell opted for a public interview. Members of the Board of Finance questioned Mr. Tyrrell on various issues. Mr. Tyrrell discussed fund balance and thought it was important to keep fund balance “within a certain range”. Mr. Tyrrell stated that he understands the issues facing the Town through his regular attendance at various board meetings and he thought it was important the Board of Finance keep from using “gimmicks”. On the issue of whether Mr. Tyrrell would remain on the Golf Committee if selected to the Board of Finance, Mr. Tyrrell said that unless the selectmen had an issue with it, he would remain on the Golf Committee. Mr. Tyrrell also stated that items should only be capitalized if the useful life of the asset approximates the term of the bonding.

At 9:30, Mr. Heiser allowed for another public comment

- Jay Dorso wanted to ensure that the selected candidate not be driven by too much ideology. He stated that there was a good balance with all the candidates but he recommended Keith Namiot.

Discussion of the Candidates

Mr. Gomez thanked all for participating in the process and commended each of the four candidates for coming forward and although from different backgrounds, all have excellent qualifications.

Mr. Heiser stated that he was impressed with all the candidates and spoke of the benefits of each. Based on a number of factors, including, experience running a business and the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee, Mr. Heiser made a motion to select Margaret Price Sims for the position.

Mr. Gomez seconded the motion to select Margaret Price Sims. Mr. Gomez felt that her experience as a business owner would be beneficial to the board.

Ms. Borstein noted that it was good that Keith Namiot and Ed Tyrrell opted to interview in public. She noted that each of the candidates has a solid background. Ms. Bornstein supported Margaret Price Sims for the open position based on a number of factors, including her local business ties and history with the Town.

Mr. Ulmer noted that this interview process was much better than in the past. Mr. Ulmer had concerns that if Mr. Tyrrell were selected, he would not be able to continue on the board after serving the remainder of the term because his position with the Federal Government prohibits

him from running for office. Mr. Ulmer noted that he was uncomfortable with Mr. Murray because of a fear that Mr. Murray would politicize many issues. Mr. Ulmer opted to abstain from voting.

Motion to select Margaret Price Sims to the open Board of Finance position passed 3-0, with Mr. Ulmer abstaining.

Mr. Heiser moved, seconded by Mr. Gomez, a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Redmond, appointed Temporary Recording Secretary by the Chairman