

Board of Selectmen

FINANCIAL MEETING

May 7, 2008

Present: Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, John Anderson, Brian Flood, Mark Finkelstein, Kathy Richards, Sharon Gibala

1. First Selectwoman Call Financial Meeting to Order

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. There was a motion by Sharon Gibala, seconded by Kathy Richards, to enter into Executive Session. Vote unanimous, motion carried. The Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

Executive Session 1 and 2 involved interviews for legal services for Town Attorney.

Executive Session 3 involved a personnel matter, specifically a grievance filed by D. Hanna.

There was a motion made by Kathy Richards, seconded by Brian Flood, to return to regular session. Vote unanimous, motion carried. The regular session was resumed at 8:29 pm.

2. Pledge Of Allegiance

3. Approve Minutes:

There was a motion by John Anderson, seconded by Kathy Richards, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2008 Special Meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

There was a motion by Carl Chudzik, seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 regular Meeting.

AYES: Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, John Anderson, Brian Flood, Mark Finkelstein, Kathy Richards

NAYES: none

ABSTAIN: Sharon Gibala

Motion carried.

4. Accept Agenda

There was a motion by Mark Finkelstein, seconded by Kathy Richards, to accept the agenda as presented. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

5. Communications / Correspondence:

Mrs. Bransfield read into the record a letter from Bud and Jean Harmon, Hale Road, Portland, commending the Portland Volunteer Fire Department on their outstanding response to a call for assistance at their home.

Mrs. Bransfield received notification that Chief Shea of the PVFD has been nominated and selected to receive the Michael Green Award from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, to be awarded on June 4, 2008.

Mrs. Bransfield reported that the Exchange Club will be honoring Officer Dan Knapp of the Portland Police Department for his outstanding police work; details to follow.

6. Public Comment

Cindy Varricchio, 25 Riverside Street, Portland informed the Selectmen that she lives near Brownstone Park and that she feels the new entrance is creating a hazard. There is no signage for this entrance. There are vehicles that are entering and exiting this area at high rates of speed. She is concerned for young children living in the area. She feels the Town missed an opportunity to be a good neighbor in the opening of this entrance, because none of the residents in the area were contacted prior to the entrance being opened. Ms. Varricchio questioned whether any traffic study was conducted on this entrance. She asked if investigations were done with regard to sight lines at this entrance and if the Risk Manager was contacted with regard to the entrance. Ms. Varricchio requested that the Selectman take immediate action to rectify this situation.

7. Proposed Subdivision Sewer Assessment

Mrs. Bransfield read into the record a letter regarding a proposed subdivision sewer assessment on Summer Street. This information was provided to the Selectmen for informational purposes. Carl Chudzik requested that Mrs. Bransfield check on whether or not the original assessment on this property was paid.

8. Resolution: Authorizing Participation in the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Response Transportation (Grant Assignment Certification; Non-discrimination Certification)

There was a motion to adopt this resolution and waive the reading of it by Mark Finkelstein, seconded by John Anderson. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

RESOLUTION - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Authorizing Participation in the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation
(Municipal Grant Program) (Midstate Regional Planning Agency)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Portland, that I, Bernadette M. Dillon, Town Clerk, a municipality organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereby certifies that the following is a full and true copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen of said municipality, duly held on the 7th day of May 2008:

Resolution authorizing the First Selectwoman, Susan S. Bransfield, to negotiate and execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Portland with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut and to affix the corporate seal.

9. Feasibility Study for Portland Boating Access Area Agreement with Fuss & O'Neill

There was a motion made by Sharon Gibala, seconded by Kathy Richards, to allow Susan Bransfield to sign an agreement for a Feasibility Study for Portland Boating Access Area with Fuss & O'Neill. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

10. Request for Payment for Services from Attorney Steven Mednick re: Charter Revisions

Mark Finkelstein made a motion, seconded by John Anderson, to pay the Attorney Steven Mednick's bill for services in the amount of \$2,260.60 by taking \$1100.00 from legal fee line item and remainder from contingency.

Selectmen discussion: Sharon Gibala stated that Attorney Mednick knew the budgeted amount prior to starting work on the Charter revisions, but that the Selectmen requested more information from the Charter Revision Commission that necessitated more opinions.

Brian Flood stated that he feels the Town has an obligation to pay this bill. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

11. Municipal Tax Suspense List: MV \$37,964.87 + PP \$666.73 = \$38,631.60

There was a motion to approve the Municipal Tax Suspense List by Mark Finkelstein, seconded by Kathy Richards. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

12. Consideration of Sale of Town-Owned Property, Airline Avenue, Map 10 Lot 6 [PZC 8-24 Review Required]

Sharon Gibala recused herself from discussion because of a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Bransfield explained a letter from Assistant Town Planner Deanna Rhodes regarding a request to purchase Town owned property on Airline Avenue. The property in question was acquired by the Town through foreclosure. Ms. Rhodes' recommendation to the Selectmen is that they follow their procedure for consideration of Town owned real estate as set forth by the Town attorney in a letter dated September 2, 2004.

Carl Chudzik commented that he feels there could be a problem with allowing the sale because it would create a possible land lock for adjacent property owners. Mrs. Bransfield will further investigate this issue and this item will be place a future agenda for discussion once this question is answered.

13. Year End Transfers

There was a motion to adopt this resolution by Mark Finkelstein, seconded by John Anderson. Mrs. Bransfield will ask Director of Public Works Rick Kelsey to report on what it is costing to repair equipment and vehicles. It is possible there will be more transfers prior to the end of the fiscal year. Rob Buden recommended that a meeting be held at the end of June to approve required transfers.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves the attached Fiscal Year 2007-2008 year end General Government Transfers.

Vote unanimous, motion carried.

14. Review Monthly Budget Reports

Rob Buden reported on figures through 3-31-2008. Revenue is on tracking with 90.46 of revenue budgeted being collected. ECS payment \$2,000,-50,000 has been recently received. This amount will make up for shortfalls in other areas. Mr. Buden reported that the Town will be in a positive financial position at the end of the fiscal year. Furthermore Mr. Buden referred to his recent resignation of his position as Finance Director effective May 16th. He publicly thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to work with them.

15. Refunds of Excess Payments: None

16. Appointments to Boards and Commissions (Re-appointments, vacancies, etc.)

There was a motion made by John Anderson, seconded by Kathy Richards to approve the nomination of Dr. Gerald Burke for a seat on the Ethics Commission. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

17. Public Comment: None

18. Board of Selectmen General Informal Discussion

Mrs. Bransfield reported that Linda Savitsky has agreed to serve as interim Finance Director [8 hours per week @ \$90.00/ hr] and that she will assist with recruitment and interviewing a replacement for Rob Buden.

The Selectmen publicly thanked Mr. Buden for instituting a lot of positive changes during his tenure as Finance Director and wished him well.

With regard to the public comment earlier in the meeting, Mrs. Bransfield has asked the Public Works Department, Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department to give opinions on this issue. An update will be given once information is received.

19. Follow Up Items:

- P&ZC request for Selectmen to rescind the Town exemption per C.G.S. Sec. 8-2 (June)
- Update Ordinances

20. Adjourn Meeting

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Brian Flood, seconded by Kathy Gibala. Vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Siena, Board Clerk