

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FINANCIAL MEETING
July 1, 2009 at 7:30 PM**

Present: Susan Bransfield- First Selectwoman, John Anderson, Carl Chudzik, Brian Flood, Mark Finkelstein, Sharon Peters, Kathy Richards.

Also present: Attorney Joseph McQuade, Labor Counsel; members of the press and public

1. FIRST SELECTWOMAN CALL FINANCIAL MEETING TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Public Library.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVE MINUTES: none

4. ACCEPT AGENDA

There was a motion by John Anderson, seconded by Kathy Richards to approve the agenda as presented. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Bransfield read into the record a letter from Susan Young, Chairman of the Library Board, thanking the library union/staff for their concessions in this tough economic climate.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

7. Final 415 Regulations Mandatory Compliance Amendment to the Town of Portland Defined Contribution Plan

Mark Finkelstein moved adoption of this resolution and waived the reading, seconded by Brian Flood.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby ratifies any and all previous action taken by the First Selectman and town officers with respect to the adoption of the "Final 415 Regulations Mandatory Compliance Amendment to the Town of Portland Defined Contribution Plan."

Vote unanimous, motion carried.

8. Discussion of Memorandums of Understanding for Town Unions:

- Police
- Public Works
- Clerical / Supervisory

- Library

Board of Selectman discussed what these MOU's represent. As a result of these agreements, all unions will be negotiating their contracts at the same time. There is a no layoff clause for one year. All contracts have been extended by two years with the exception of the Library union, which extended their contract 3 years. As a result of these agreements, employees will receive zero pay increases and they will also pay an increased percentage of their health insurance coverage.

Carl Chudzik expressed his concern that these agreements do not reflect what he believed was being negotiated.

Mrs. Bransfield expressed her appreciation to the employees of the Town for their willingness to negotiate in these tough economic times.

Mark Finkelstein made a motion to endorse the MOU for the Police Department, seconded by Brian Flood. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Mark Finkelstein made a motion to endorse MOU with the Public Works union, seconded by Brian Flood. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Mark Finkelstein made a motion to endorse the MOU with the Clerical/Supervisory union, seconded by Kathy Richards. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Mark Finkelstein made a motion to endorse the MOU with the Library union, seconded by Sharon Peters. Vote unanimous, motion carried

9. Transfer Station Permit Fees Rebate

Transfer station permit fees have been raised from \$12 to \$25 per year. When this increase was passed, the Town was not aware that they would be receiving a rebate from CRRA which amounts to approximately \$3,300. The Selectman discussed passing this savings on to the tax payers in the form of a rebate.

Brian Flood made a motion, seconded by Sharon Peters, to implement a \$5 rebate for fiscal year 09-10 to those who have purchased permits, with a one time use only applied to the permit fee. The Selectmen discussed this motion. Brian Flood and Sharon Peters withdrew their motion.

Carl Chudzik made a motion, seconded by Mark Finkelstein, that a \$5 rebate be administered for those who have paid the \$25 permit fee, and that the \$5 rebate will be used for further recycling. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

10. REFUNDS OF EXCESS PAYMENTS: none

11. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Re-appointments, vacancies, etc.)

Mrs. Bransfield announced that Jeanne Dilworth has tendered her resignation as a regular Commissioner on the Ethics Commission and publicly thanked her for her work.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

13. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Mark Finkelstein asked if the followup items can be removed from the agendas or put on the agenda as items to address.

John Anderson asked that follow up item #1, P&ZC request for Selectmen to rescind the Town exemption per C.G.S. Sec. 8-2, be put on the next agenda.

Susan Bransfield reported that she has written a letter to the Probate Administrator encouraging that Portland be grouped with similar small towns and not added to the Middletown Probate system.

Portland Town Place developers have been asked to save three historic houses. Two of these will be able to be saved, the third is not feasible. (Planning & Zoning Commission will continue there public hearing on this application on July 9th at 7:00 PM in the Brownstone Intermediate School)

Susan Bransfield and the Portland Library staff met with the company that does all the HVAC work for the library. The control system for the library is very old and is causing the HVAC system to be used more than necessary. A new control system was recommended. Saving realized could be as much as \$12,000. Payback time in updating the system is approximately four years. Updates to the system would be paid for by a grant. Specifics of this plan will be discussed at a future meeting.

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force and the Portland Clean Energy Task force are working on a regional grant application. Mrs. Bransfield thanked the Selectman and the Energy committee for their support of this effort.

14. FOLLOW UP ITEMS:

- Update Ordinances
- Creation of Fire Lane Ordinance

15. ADJOURN MEETING

There was a motion by John Anderson, seconded by Brian Flood to adjourn the meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Siena, Board Clerk