

**Town of Montville Finance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Murphy called the Special Meeting of the Town of Montville Finance Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Remarks from the Public**

Chairman Murphy asked three times if there was anyone present who would like to come forward to address the Committee. Hearing none, the Chair moved on to the next agenda item.

4. **Discussion of Proposed 2010-2011 Budget**

Chairman Murphy stated Mayor Jaskiewicz submitted new information to the Committee and asked him to review this information with the Committee. Councilor Beetham indicated he did not receive this information. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he was e-mailed the information the previous day and provided Councilor Beetham with the information provided in the e-mail for discussion. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the 2011 Mayor “original budget” was posted in the newspaper and then he realized he had over projected the revenues on the 2009-2010 so he went back and looked at the revenues for the 2010-2011 budget and the right hand column depicts the “Mayor updated” column where he has reduced the revenues for the Town because of his experience with the 2009-2010 budget by almost \$400,000. The rest of the budget he has done the same thing because the Town Council had asked that all the departments submit a zero budget increase. All of the adjustments suggested by Councilor Hillman at the last meeting are in the new budget. This information is provided to the Committee to give them a heads up as to where the budget is going. The left hand column where it says “original” is the budget that was published in the newspaper. After realizing that he had over projected on the 2009-2010 revenues, he went back in to the 2010-2011 budget per the suggestion from the Town Council, we are looking at the reduction of the revenues at the whole budget again. It will be up to the Council as to whether or not to accept these changes.

Councilor Murphy inquired if Terry Fafard, Finance Director, has a projection of where the Town stands right now on revenues. Ms. Fafard stated money was received today and she estimates the total revenues to be 1.3 million for the current fiscal year. She stated the last column of the revised budget reflects the zero percent increase as suggested by the Town Council.

Councilor Murphy stated the Committee needs to make a decision as to which departments the Committee would like to call in for further discussion regarding their proposed budgets.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Beetham to take a ten minute recess to allow Councilor Beetham to review the latest budget submitted by Mayor Jaskiewicz and to review the documentation from the non-profit organizations.

Discussion: Chairman Murphy stated that most of the budgets have come in at a zero percent increase as requested by the Town Council. Ms. Fafard stated everyone came in at a zero percent increase other than contractual payroll obligations and insurance costs. All other increases are things they don't have any control over, savings on fuel, electricity rates, phone services helped out in some areas. Public Works is down by 3% including their salary increases. Police has an increase to reflect a realistic true budget. Their salaries and overtime over the past two years has been grossly under budget, this projects a true budget and reflects what the actual costs are. A discussion was held regarding how the Town is going to fund the re-valuation. Ms. Fafard stated this item is on the agenda for the June 3, 2010 Finance Committee. Voice vote: 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Murphy resumed the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and apologized for the delay. He invited Councilor Hillman to address the Committee regarding her proposed cuts to the non-profit organizations.

Councilor Hillman stated letters were sent to all the non-profit organizations in December asking them what their budget requests are and how many people in town they serve, what sort of fund raising they do, what their budget is and some people sent back the questionnaire and some did not. Of those that did not respond, she contacted each organization three times and those who did not respond to the three attempted calls were called again by the Council secretary. She stated the following; Community Center Health requested nothing and got nothing, Raymond Hill Library requested \$36,000, they did not respond to any of the requests or paperwork sent to them, they have \$1,000 left in their budget for this year, so their request for next year was cut down to \$35,000. The Comstock School Fund was \$1,000 and was left at \$1,000 because she spoke with them and they really depend on that money to fund the Comstock awards. Eastern Connecticut Conservation District requested \$1,500, budgeted for \$900 and she cut them down to \$650. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were budgeted for \$800, they did not respond at all so they were cut down to zero. The Woman's Center of Southeastern Connecticut was budgeted for \$2,500 last year they were cut to \$500 per a one year agreement because they said they were really feeling the impact of the economy, she explained the situation the Town is in this year and they are willing to accept \$2,000. Big Brothers, Big Sisters requested \$3,000, the amount budgeted was \$500 and they got \$250. She discussed the number of Montville residents that use the service. United Community and Family Services requested \$53,083 and were budgeted \$1,000 and she cut them to \$750. They do serve 776 residents in town at a cost of \$481,110. Easter Seals did not respond. Montville Babe Ruth Baseball requested \$2,750 and they were cut down to \$2,500. Montville American Little League and National Little League are merging into one entity

and combined together this year will receive one sum of \$2,500. Girls Softball did not respond and will receive zero. American Legion Baseball was budgeted for \$1,250 and requested \$2,000 she gave them \$1,000. Montville Youth Soccer Club was budgeted for \$2,550, they requested \$2,500 and this was cut to \$2,250. Montville Youth Football did not respond and they got zero. Sexual Assault Crisis Center was budgeted \$300, they requested \$600 and they got \$200. She did not have the actual numbers for the Memorial Day Parade because it took place last week so she left it as it was until she gets more information. Literacy Volunteers was budgeted for \$1,000 and was cut by \$250. The New London Homeless Hospitality Center was cut from \$3,000 to \$2,750. The total amount budgeted for non-profits was \$65,800, the total amount requested by the non-profit organizations was \$72,683 and the new balance is \$55,200 and that is including the Babe Ruth Baseball added this evening.

Chairman Murphy inquired if the groups that did not respond to date came forward and requested the money how it would be handled. Councilor Hillman stated the decision would be up to the Council as a whole, but her personal opinion is that they were contacted five times and they failed to respond and there are plenty of other non-profits who would be happy to accept the money and she does not want to beg organizations to take money. Many non-profits serve the needs of Montville and could use the money. Chairman Murphy thanked Councilor Hillman for all the time and effort she put into the non-profit budget.

Chairman Murphy invited the Superintendent of Schools and Cathy Lamouroux to answer questions from the Committee.

Superintendent of Schools, Pam, indicated the school system is working with the United Way trying to step up contributions on the school side with staff contributions as a way for employees to give back.

Chairman Murphy inquired regarding the possible funds coming back to the Town. Ms. ___ indicated she has been in contact with Councilor Jacobson and will not have a number until after the third week of June when salaries and benefits are paid up to date. She reminded the Committee the school system has cut twenty positions over the past three years and are working on a one percent budget over this past year. She discussed a list of maintenance items there is not enough money for and she is wants to avoid health and safety issues. Anticipated payouts are over a million dollars for insurance benefits and salaries. She stated she will report back to the Committee after the third week in June with the numbers they are requesting.

Chairman Murphy inquired regarding the collection rate for this fiscal year. Ms. Fafard indicated it is 98.4 percent as of today which is better than last year.

Chairman Murphy asked for suggestions from the Committee members regarding the departments they would like to attend the June 3, 2010 meeting to answer questions and review their budgets.

Councilor Caron requested Information Technology, Building and Planning & Zoning Departments.

Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated that Planning & Zoning has submitted a zero percent increase to their budget this year and it is reflected in the most recent budget.

Councilor Beetham requested the Police Department and Public Works. He stated the Board of Education has amended their budget to below one percent and inquired why the Police Department is asking for eleven percent. Ms. Fafard explained the increases to the Police budget are for salaries only.

Councilor Murphy inquired where the mill rate is headed and Ms. Fafard stated she is trying to make it as low as possible. She indicated the town is down by .57 mills, so that would be the minimum increase because the town used fund balance last year. The town could cut out the Capital Plan of \$500,000 and have permission to use this money for general operating costs, but in her opinion the best thing would be to cut the Capital Plan to \$250,000, that would give the town a mill rate at 98.5% collection it would give the town a 1.25 with no concessions from the Union and no loss of jobs or services. The reality is a .69 mill increase. Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated he will draw up a worksheet for the next meeting that reflects different scenarios. He stated FEMA is coming in on Friday to go over the expenditures for all the work that has been done and the town will be reimbursed for seventy five percent of the cost of repairs. Last year the town used \$850,000 to bring the rate down. A discussion was held regarding sending the tax bills out and at what rate they will go out. Ms. Fafard explained the process and the best way to send the bills out and avoid confusion. Mayor Jaskiewicz is in favor of adding the supplemental amount due, if any to the January billing cycle. This would cause a problem with automobile tax bills.

5. **Remarks from the Public** – none.

6. **Remarks from the Mayor** – none.

7. **Remarks from the Councilors**

Councilor Beetham discussed postage costs and bulk mailings.

Chairman Murphy stated the next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Beetham to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville