

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes for

April 30, 2013

5:30 p.m. Room 203

Joe Jaskiewicz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Candy Buebendorf, Rosetta Jones, Mayor Ron McDaniel and Finance Director Terry Hart.

Remarks from the public: Tony Siragusa stated that he was glad to see the senior tax relief plan on the agenda. He feels it will increase the tax base and give tax relief to senior citizens. Kevin Fritch stated that he does not feel the town should fund capital items for the BOE. He said that these items are embedded in their operating budget and bought at year end. Wills Pike stated that there is no way to track the BOE capital expenditures because they do not file the maintenance report required by State Statute. He feels there are enough school buses and the town should not fund for an additional one. He also stated that he hopes the town continues to make improvements to the Raymond Hill Church.

Minutes: Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to approve the minutes of the 3/26/13 meeting. Buebendorf and Jones approved. Jaskiewicz abstained. Motion passed.

Agenda Items as follows:

Funding for part time youth workers: Barbara Lockhart, Youth Director, requested that the \$6,000 in revenue generated by the after school program fees be used to offset increases for the part time youth workers. She also requested five additional hours for the MYSB administrative assistant position. Lockhart stated that her current budget request does not include additional funding for these employees. After discussion, the committee felt they could not support this request so far into the budget process.

Black Ash Road: The committee discussed the funds available to realign the intersection of Black Ash Road and Old Colchester Road. There is \$44,000 in the town's bank account that was left by the developer and \$40,107 in line item 30999-54304 that can be used for this project. Buebendorf moved, second by Jaskiewicz, to recommend the Town Council move \$44,000 from the developer into line item 30999-54304 Black Ash Road. Motion passed unanimously.

Audit Firm: Hart distributed a letter from Rob Howard of Grant Thornton. Howard will be leaving the firm and joining Mahoney Sabol & Company as an audit partner. Hart suggested allowing Howard to continue with the 2013 audit and then go out to bid. Buebendorf felt that the Town should go out to bid for the 2013 audit. Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to go out to bid for the 2013 Town Audit provided that a letter is submitted by Grant Thornton severing the relationship with the town. Passed unanimously.

Sr. Tax Relief: Jaskiewicz had sent the proposal to the state. He received a call from State Rep. Kevin Ryan, who stated that he did not understand it and needed more information. Jaskiewicz with arrange a meeting the Ryan and Siragusa to discuss this.

Transfer to Town Aid Road: Hart informed the committee that there are funds in the General Fund that need to be transferred to Town Aid Road. They were originally budgeted in the General Fund and not TAR. Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to recommend the Town Council transfer \$105,343 from the General Fund balance to Town Aid Road. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of 2014 Budget and Capital Plan: The Mayor informed the committee the State Revenues continue to change daily. Currently the Appropriation Committee has reduced the Governor's proposed revenue to the town by \$700,000, although this is not the final figure. The following actions were taken:

Buebendorf moved, Jones second, to set the collection rate for 2013-14 at 98.5%. Passed unanimously. Buebendorf moved, Jones second, to increase M V Supplement (10100-41003) by \$10,000. Passed unanimously.

Jones moved, second by Buebendorf, to increase Prior Year Taxes (10100-41025) by \$60,000. Passed unanimously.

Jaskiewicz moved, second by Buebendorf, to increase Interest (10100-41035) by \$30,000. Passed unanimously.

Jaskiewicz moved, second by Buebendorf, to increase Town Clerk Fees (10100-42005) by \$10,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to increase Parks & Recreation (10100-44005) by \$6,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to increase Youth Service Program (10100-44020) by \$4,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to increase CT Fines Reimbursement (10100-46042) by \$2,000. Passed unanimously.

Jaskiewicz moved, second by Buebendorf, to decrease Probate (10350-52137) by \$1,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to decrease Finance Overtime (10410-51100) by \$1,500. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to decrease Accountants (10410-51054) by \$2,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to decrease PT Police (10820-51071) by \$2,000. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to decrease Police Car Replacement (10960-54006) by \$35,000. This will fund one police car. Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to eliminate \$88,000 for School Bus (10960-54064). Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to eliminate \$94,240 for BOE Access Control (10960-54076). Passed unanimously.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to eliminate \$54,000 for Replacement of Exterior Doors at Tyl (10960-54104). Jones and Buebendorf would like to see the BOE submit a maintenance report.

Buebendorf and Jones in favor. Jaskiewicz opposed. Motion passed.

Jones moved, second by Jaskiewicz, to eliminate \$25,000 for Police Boat (10960-54133). Jones in favor. Buebendorf and Jaskiewicz opposed. Motion failed.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding funding for Fire Apparatus. Jones felt the town should not allocate funds until the Public Safety Study is adopted. She felt, according to the study, that \$200,000 was too much money. The Mayor stated that the study suggested funding at \$368,000 annually. Jones moved to fund Contribution to Capital at \$100,000. There was no second.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to change the funding structure of police car replacement the Capital plan to one car in FY 2014, two cars in FY 2015, one car in FY 2016, two cars in FY 2017 and one car in FY 2018. Passed unanimously.

#### Remarks from the Public

Wills Pike stated that he read in the paper that Groton was looking into MBR for the BOE. He asked if our enrollment had gone down. Hart indicated that enrollment appeared to be down by 120 students. Pike asked if the committee was considering MBRs. They informed him that they were not. Kevin Fritch feels

that the BOE has excess funds which they transfer at the year end. He feels there should be more transparencies with these transfers. Councilor Longton supported the BOE submitting a maintenance report. He informed the committee that according to statute it should be given two months prior to the budget vote. He asked if the part time IT employee would have benefits. Hart explained that position was not eligible for benefits. He also questioned if the town was considering regionalization for Animal Control. The Mayor informed him that this would be for the facility only and not the employees. Longton also asked about the telephone budget for the Public Safety Building. He noticed this line had a significant decrease. Hart explained that this was because of the new technology that was installed at the new building. He asked if this is something that could be installed at the Town Hall. Hart stated that she looked into that and it would require replacement of the existing phone system. This may be an item in the Capital Plan for next year. Tony Siragusa asked why the Planning and Zoning Commission has to approve the Capital Plan. Hart explained it is a State Statute. The Mayor stated that this is for P&Z to review road and infrastructure improvements that are planned in the future.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance