

## MINUTES

The Finance Committee for the Town of Montville met at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204 at the Montville Town Hall on May 18, 2009.

Members present: Billy Caron, Gary Murphy and John Geary.

Also present: Theresa Fafard, Finance Director and Candy Buebendorf, Town Council Chair.

Billy Caron called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Comment - none

The committee met with Superintendent Dave Erwin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux and members of the Board of Education to discuss their budget. Erwin explained that they needed more than the Mayor's proposed .81% increase. This amount would only cover the cost of payouts for vacation and sick time, which is contractual. He also explained that two administrators, who are retired teachers, were hired. The BOE was able to do this at a lower cost than to hire someone new. They also don't have to pay health benefits or paid leave. Gary Murphy asked if teachers had been offered early retirement. Erwin stated that they do have language in the contract regarding early retirement, but nothing above that has been offered. Caron asked about layoff notices. There were 31 teachers who received layoff notices. No administrative positions received layoff notices. A great deal of the budget costs are due to state mandates that the board cannot control. An increase of 1.8% would be much more manageable. Candy Buebendorf suggested pay for play. The board will be looking at this as an option for athletics as well as after school programs.

The committee went over the Information Technology budget with Bill O'Neill. He explained the need for a new mail server and a new general server. Both are about 7 years old and the town is at risk of them going down. There was also discussion of the web monitoring. O'Neill explained that this block certain sites from employees and protects from viruses coming in. All IT items are now in this budget instead of being in individual department budgets, which is part of the reason for the increase. The town has to also pay for support and access fees for the programs it is using. O'Neill informed the committee that he would like to have one to two people helping him part-time. This would cost about \$20,000-\$25,000 annually. He will be making this request in a future budget.

Terry Fafard reviewed the Finance Department budget with the committee. There is a new line in this budget called Quality Data Services. This is for preparation and mailing of the tax bills. This will cut down the cost of overtime, printing charges and postage. There is an increase in advertising. This is for legal notices that must go in The New London Day. The Finance Department consists of the Tax Collector's Office, the Assessor's office and the Finance office. These offices are running smoothly with the staff they currently have, which is 8 employees.

The Finance Committee will meet with the Park and Recreation Director and will also finalize the budget on May 20, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Geary; seconded by Murphy. Motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Fafard, Finance Director