

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

May 9, 2012

5:30 p.m. – Town Council Chambers

Rosetta Jones called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. She also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Candy Buebendorf and Finance Director Terry Hart. Buebendorf stated that she was not able to vote during the Mayor's absence. Gary Murphy arrived at 5:50 p.m. Councilors Caron and Longton were also present.

Remarks from the Public: Wils Pike of 71 Pheasant Run commented on the School Budget increase over the past 8 years. He stated that it has increased \$7.8 mil since 2003, which is almost \$1 mil a year. He feels there is \$1 mil of fluid cash in the budget each year. He discussed that in 2010-11 there were 37 objects that were budgeted at \$3.7 mil yet \$5.3 mil was expended. He gave examples of conferences being budgeted at \$12,000 but \$55,000 was spent. The budget for non-instructional equipment was budgeted at \$4,000 yet \$88,000 was spent. He also had concerns about a bus being purchased out of operating funds.

Councilor Longton stated that he did not feel that the budget was presented well. He felt it should include revenues as well as expenses. He also questioned what the fund balance is at.

Pam Aubin, Superintendent of Schools, responded to the comments. She stated that last fiscal year the Board of Education received a 1% increase and it was understood that if there were any remaining funds it would be used to purchase technology and a bus. She explained that the school is not allowed to carryover funds from year to year. She is recommending that the transportation goes out to bid.

Jones questioned why several lines in the budget had increased so significantly over last year. She also asked if the \$610,000 the state gave the school was in the 2012-13 Budget. Aubin stated that is was and that this was a onetime tax abatement. Buebendorf stated that the BOE should look into pay to play. She also stated that she doesn't feel the town can make up the \$610,000 from the state. She mentioned that the enrollment has also declined.

Minutes: Jones moved, second by Murphy, to approve the minutes of the 4/24/12 meeting. Buebendorf abstained. Motion passed.

Review of IT Bids: Hart distributed the bids for the part IT position. The hourly rates ranged from \$40-\$99. The committee will review them and meet with the IT Director.

Administrative Fes for Haulers: There was discussion regarding implementing an administration fee to the haulers like other towns do. Hart provided a list to the committee. Jones moved, seconded by Murphy, to recommend the Town Council add an administration fee of \$3 per ton, which is 5% of what the town is currently being charged. Buebendorf abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion of 2012-13 Proposed Budget: Hart provided the committee with information they had requested at the last meeting. The committee will meet on May 17 with IT, Park and Recreation, Planning and Zoning and the Building Departments beginning at 3:45 p.m. They will meet with Public Works and the Police on May 21 at 4 p.m. A Council meeting on the budget is tentatively set for Tuesday, June 5, 2012.

Remarks from the Public: Wils Pike of Pheasant Run felt that the capital portion of the school budget should be within the town's Capital Improvement Plan. He also questioned if the school made purchases with extra funds last year, do they need to make those purchases again next year? Councilor Longton had additional questions but the members of the Board of Education had already left. He felt that they did not address the Councilors' questions. Hart stated that she was concerned about the town making up the \$600,000 given by the state. She also mentioned that the town could have reduced the school budget the past two years because of declining enrollment.

Adjournment: Jones moved, second by Murphy, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion passed.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance