

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

July 2, 2012

5:00 p.m. Room 203

Gary Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Candy Buebendorf, Rosetta Jones, Billy Caron, Mayor Ron McDaniel and Finance Director Terry Hart. Pam Aubin, Superintendent of Schools and members of the Board of Education were also present.

Remarks from the Public: None

Minutes: Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to approve the minutes of the 5/29/12 meeting. Motion passed.

Agenda Items as follows:

Explore consolidation of finance functions of the Board of Education and the Town: Buebendorf explained that she was looking to explore the idea of consolidation. Other towns have done this. Most recently the Town of Plainfield has combined these functions. She would like to weigh the pros and cons and determine if there can be any cost savings. She has contacted CCM and will share the information with the committee when she receives it. Jones was concerned that combining these functions would go against Article 3 of the Charter. Aubin stated the BOE and the town do currently share some services. She has concerns about combining the finance functions and feels the BOE would have to agree to this. She feels substantial study and research will have to be done before a decision can be made. Murphy does not feel combining is a good idea. He stated that the two should be separate and any information the Council needs should be made available. Dave Rowley, BOE, stated that a liaison from the council has been put in place to assure transparencies. Murphy receives a check register every month and a quarterly report. Hart stated that she does not feel these functions should be combined. She stated that she was aware that this has been done in smaller towns and is not sure how it would work in larger towns. She feels the BOE and the town have had a good working relationship. Buebendorf suggested this item be kept on the agenda until the information from CCM is received. Jones recommended the formation of a subcommittee be discussed at the next meeting.

Recommend Finance Director receives detail monthly budget reports from the Board of Education: Murphy explained that, as liaison, he receives a monthly check register from the Board of Education. He will forward this to the council. Hart thought it would be helpful if she received a detail budget by object so she would be aware of actual expenditures. Currently the Finance Department receives a monthly check register.

Remarks from the Public

Mark Higham of Waterford had questions regarding the reduction in hours for the Park & Recreation secretary. He asked why the reduction was made, why town employees received a 0% increase while the summer camp employees got raises and why part-time help was hired for Public Works. He also questioned why the hours of the position in Land Use that were reduced had been restored. It was explained this was a union issue and the Park & Recreation Commission approves raises for the summer camp employees.

Kevin Fritch, 12 Morgan Street, stated that he feels that Town money and School money are both tax payers' money. He would like to see the BOE and the town work closely. He feels the council should receive a monthly budget report to know where the BOE stands.

Wils Pike, Pheasant Run, stated he has no problem with the way the finances are currently done in Montville. He feels that the BOE budget needs to be validated. He questioned the planned reductions of \$679,000 in the 2012-13 budget. He also asked why the BOE had \$3 mil left in their budget when the fiscal year had closed. Aubin stated that the funds have been encumbered and the town will be receiving that figure.

Sandra Berardy, of the Board of Education, explained that it is important to keep up with maintenance for the safety of children. In past years when the BOE was given no increase, they froze spending in November to ensure there was enough money for the students. If there was any money left, it was spent at the end of the fiscal year. This cycle has continued, with a good part of the budget being expended at the end of the year.

Buebendorf moved, second by Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion passed.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance