TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
June 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Members present: Colin Brown-Chairman, George Allingham, Greg Buchholz, Meg Khare, Don Shail, and Molly Stratton

Guests present: Cathy Vikstrom, Bill Stuart – First Selectman, Dennis Keane, Neil Cable-Selectman, and Patrick Dwyer

Agenda Item #1 – call to order at 7:14 p.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Request for recommendation of source of funds for appropriation regarding upgrades to the baseball field at the Recreation Center - discussion and action.

Cathy Vikstrom presented to the Board of Finance (BOF) the proposed plan of the ball field fencing and backstop required for the baseball field to meet Little League standards. She included a handout including an estimate of $17,200 for black fencing from Silvestri Fencing, as well as request for the use of $12K from the Town Owned Buildings budgeted amount and approximately the same from the Harris Fund. Reasons provided for the replacement of the existing fencing are as follows:

1) Existing fencing and backstop are in disrepair.
2) Existing backstop does not meet measurements required for Little League standards and therefore, when the players reach a certain age, they can no longer play on the field.
3) Safety concerns –Existing backstop is small and the existing fences do not adequately protect players and spectators. There have been accidents, including a player being hit with a bat and spectators being hit with foul balls. The replacement backstop will be 20' tall with 10' wings.

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Discussion amongst the BOF followed.

Molly inquired as to how far the backstop would be moved from its current location. Cathy indicated that it would be approximately 15'. Bill Stuart noted that there would still be adequate room for the walking path.

Don inquired as to whether there could be something placed under the fencing so that grass wouldn't grow under it and therefore would keep the mowers away. It was noted that perhaps clay would work.

George inquired if there would be enough room for people to walk around the dugouts and whether there would be adequate room for the spectators. Cathy stated that the fencing will protect the spectators and there will be adequate room.

Molly inquired as to why this was not part of FY 2010 budget. Cathy indicated that during the prior budgeting period, the Recreation Commission focused on programming, but has now redirected its mission to be an advocate for the Town's recreation facilities, noting that a five year plan is being developed. At this time, this project has the most urgent need. Greg corroborated that this had just come up in the last month or so.

George wanted to be sure that parties utilizing the pavilion would have access to the field once completed, to which Cathy indicated that they would.

George suggested that this be a capital project and inquired as to why the site work of $5,000 had not been bid upon, as the entire project exceeded requirements for bidding. He wondered if the bidding met the requirements of the Town bidding ordinance. Bill responded that the fencing contractor will not perform the site work and therefore, he treated it separately. Molly indicated that we should be sure that the bidding process is understood.

Molly inquired as to the removal of the old fencing. Bill responded that the Town crew will remove the fencing and truck top soil to the site. Bill estimated that the project would use approximately ½ day for two employees to remove the existing sod and ½ day for two existing employees to haul top soil.

George stated that the Town crew is not supposed to construct new assets, as that is not their budgeted purpose. The crew is supposed to be used for maintenance of Town assets. Meg indicated that she feels it would be more expensive to not use the Town crew.

Neither George, nor Greg wants to use funds from the Harris Fund, as the market has been down and they indicated that it would be prudent to allow the Harris Fund to recover.

George suggested that an additional appropriation be made, to transfer funds from Town Owned Buildings to Capital Projects.

MOTION to transfer $12K from Town Owned Buildings to Capital Projects for the construction of baseball fencing and backstop, including site work. MOTION by Greg Buchholz, seconded by Meg Khare. Motion carried, with all in favor except for George Allingham, who abstained.

MOTION to approve an additional appropriation of $10K to Capital Projects for the construction of baseball fencing and backstop, including site work. MOTION by Greg Buckhholz, seconded by Meg Khare. Unanimous and so moved.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. MOTION by Greg Buchholz, second by Meg Khare, unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully submitted

Colin Brown, Chairman