

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Members present: Greg Buchholz-Chairman, Lori Franklin, Don Shail, Meg Khare, Molly Stratton,
Nancy Hawley

Guest present: Greg Bollard, Curtis Read-Selectman, Ed Bennett-Selectman

Agenda Item #1: Call to order at 7:05

Agenda Item #2: Minutes of the January 20, 2010 Regular Meeting, January 20, 2010 Annual Meeting,
January 27, 2010 Special Meeting.

Minutes of the January 20, 2010 Regular meeting. MOTION to approve minutes as presented, MOTION
by Don, second by Lori. Greg noted a typo regarding the approval of the 12/17/09, the sentence: "no
discussion, unanimous and so moved" appears twice. MOTION carries with the above noted
amendment.

Minutes of the January 20, 2010 Special Meeting. MOTION to approve minutes as presented, MOTION
by Don, second by Molly. No discussion, unanimous and so moved.

Minutes of the January 27, 2010 Special Meeting. MOTION by Molly, second by Don. No discussion,
one abstention, MOTION carries .

Agenda Item #2: BVFD presentation of award/incentive program. Greg Bollard, representing the
Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD), presented a "Recruitment, Retention and Recognition"
(RRR) program. The BVFD polled departments in neighboring towns to determine what programs were
in place to improve staffing for emergencies in their respective Towns. After careful review of available
options, the BVFD has proposed the adoption of a Town funded Recruitment, Retention and Recognition
program which offers a Tax Abatement to active members that dedicate a substantial amount of time to
the department. The program has been approved by Connecticut Legislators and endorsed by the
Bridgewater Board of Selectman. The BOS have recommended a budget of \$20,000 for the first year.

Greg departed at 7:17.

Following a lengthy discussion, the BOF agrees to make a recommendation to the BOS to support the
BVFD RRR Tax Abatement program for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Ultimate approval of the program lies
with the Town and will take place at a Town Meeting, date and time to be determined.

Agenda Item # 4: Treasurer's Report. Greg indicated that there is no treasurer's report. Kim Baron
brought some minor issues to Greg's attention. It is unclear what access Kim has to Town reports.
Molly expressed concern over the lack of YTD reports that are provided at regularly scheduled BOF
meetings. The budget worksheet only provides actuals through January 2010. Kim will be meeting with
Amy Allingham Thursday.

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Agenda Item #5: Tax Collector Report. Greg reported that a couple of property owners are significantly behind in taxes. One dates back to 1995. They have been on a payment plan, however, arrearage amounts to about \$87,000.00. Another property owner has not paid in about 3 years and owes about \$27,000. The combined total of these delinquencies amounts to about \$120,000. Greg inquired as to what the collection procedure for the town is. The town has the option of putting a lien on the property. It is unclear as to whether this has been done. Roberta has been in contact with these individuals. She has issued a letter stating they have until June 30, 2010 to bring their taxes current. After this point the account will be referred to a collection agency. *These were the only 2 significant delinquencies discussed in the town to date.*

Agenda Item #6: Assessor's Office Report and Requests, discussion and possible action. Denise Pinter wrote a letter addressing this year's Audit report which stated that report M-37 was not filed on time. After researching the matter, Denise found that the report was filed on time together with report M-65a.

A second letter has been received by the Selectman and Board of Finance members requesting that the Assessor's salary and pension benefits be brought to a level equal to that of other Town department heads. The Board of Finance recommends the increase of the Assessor's salary to the level that other Town department heads are currently at.

Agenda Item #7: Report on RSD 12. Nancy reported that the RSD administration appears to be receptive to the idea of working with member town Boards of Finance in an effort to more closely identify cost saving opportunities.

Agenda Item #8: Update on Board of Selectman meeting 2/2/2010 regarding auditor's report and hiring of a consultant. Greg provided information received from the Selectman at their 2/2/2010 meeting. This information outlines how neighboring towns handle deficiencies. No decision has been made by the BOS on the Board of Finance's request to hire an outside consultant to address the ongoing deficiencies sighted in the Town's 2010 audit.

Lori noted that she has information provided by Lois Carrierra detailing procedures followed in neighboring Towns as well as information regarding the process of changing the Town Treasurer's position from an elected position to a position appointed by the Selectman.

Agenda Item #9: Review available budget details, discussion and action. The budget worksheet provided by the Selectman was reviewed. A great deal of information was not provided. Review will continue pending receipt of additional information from the Selectmen's office.

Agenda Item #10: Bridgewater Library Assoc – Independent auditor's report, discussion. Greg distributed the Audit report for the Burnham Library. Members will review audit report and discuss at an upcoming meeting.

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Agenda Item #11: Engagement Letter of Meyers & Company, LLC of Burnham Library and Town of Bridgewater for year end June 30, 2010, discussion. Greg distributed a letter of Engagement provided by Meyers and Company for the Audit of the Town's financial statements and governmental activities. Members will review and discuss at an upcoming meeting.

Agenda Item #12: Policy on disbursement from the Burnham Poor Fund. Greg distributed a policy on disbursements from the Burnham Poor Fund for informational purposed only. It was unclear as to whether this was the old policy or the current policy.

Agenda Item #13: Any other business that may come before the Board and added by a 2/3 vote of the Board. No action taken

Agenda Item #14: Adjourn. MOTION to adjourn at 9:45. MOTION by Meg, second by Molly.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Buchholz, Chairman
By Nancy Hawley, Secretary of the Board