

Minutes
Tri-Board Meeting
Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee
October 19, 2009
6:00 pm

Chair Person Robert Barkett called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

Present: Members of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee

Also Present: Department Heads, other community members, Town Manager Robin Crosbie, Finance Director Paul Pasterczyk and Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners

2010 Update - Mr. Pasterczyk provided an updated spreadsheet detailing the FY10 Budget. He also provided a scenario with a 3.5% reduction in State Aid and an estimated FY11 Budget which showed a \$2.1million deficient.

Summary of Reserve Balances – Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed a document previously provided summarizing the Town side current Reserve Fund accounts. The School Department also provided Reserve Fund information. Mr. Gold strongly recommended that these funds be examined very closely and suggested that the balances are used for a related expense prior to having to find funding for that account. For example a balance of a little over \$200 in a Library account that has been there for over two years, could be used in some capacity in the Library. He added that this was a small example but they will add up. Mr. Barkett requested that the School Committee and Select Board identify the accounts, detail which ones can be used for other services, which ones can be spent down to a zero balance and what minimums should be left in other accounts. He asked that that information be brought to the next Tri Board meeting.

Define Balanced Budget – Mr. Barkett stated that this needs to be made clear on Town Meeting Floor.

Budget Calendar – There were some changes to the budget calendar. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will make these changes and email it to the Boards.

Tri Board Meetings- The next meeting will be held Monday November 16th at 6:00 pm at the Longmeadow Police Station Community House.

Dept Head Meetings – The Department Heads will be meeting with the Select Board again as well as the Finance Committee.

Collective Bargaining Update (All Departments) –The Town is in mediation with one unit and in negotiations with five. The Schools are mediation with one unit and in negotiations with three.

Discussion

Identifying Priorities – After some discussion it was decided that each Board has to come up with their own list and then have a discussion with the other boards. Mr. Gold suggested an approach that the Capital Planning Committee has used in the past. Mr. Barkett reminded everyone about the Select Board's Goals that were adopted two years ago, stating that the top three Goals in no particular order are: Financial Health, Stability and Sustainability, Education and Public Safety.

Identify Revenue Options – Ms. Bruns stated that exploring the consolidation of building as well as revenue generating ideas must be priorities. The Select Board directed the Department Heads to be creative and come up with revenue generating ideas for their and other departments. Mr. Gold shared some of those with the boards. Those ideas will be pursued and new ideas are always encouraged.

Employment/hiring actions – The Town currently has six job openings. Two are from the Spring and the other four have recently opened, they are all in various stages of the interview process. The Schools did not have an exact number of openings at this time; however the positions are not carried over from last year and are in various stages of the interview process as well.

Review of Capital needs-

Capital needs – A draft document was provided to the Boards.

Outsourcing, CPA funding, grant writing, regionalization, policy - spending special funds –There was little discussion regarding outsourcing and regionalization. Mr. Gold suggested that Mr. Barkett meet with neighboring Town Officials to get an idea of what their outsourcing opportunities and needs are. Town Manager Robin Crosbie reminded the Select Board that she requested a Planner last year who would have the responsibility of Grant researching and writing. A Grant Writer would be an example of a revenue generating item that the Town would have to invest in first. Applications for three Capital Projects will be sent to the CPA for consideration.

Reserves and/or Override as options – This topic will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting when more information from the State is received. Mr. Barkett requested a list of what policies are being broken with reserve accounts as a result of the budget. Mr. Aseltine provided two examples and these will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

Mr. Weigand stated that in the private sector management has stepped up and took pay decreases or furlough days to help with the current economic times and save jobs. He would hope that Town Leaders in Longmeadow will do the same.

Mr. Aseltine made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session with the option to reconvene into open session. The Select Board closed the Regular Meeting and moved their entered into Executive Session. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary