

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Approved  
6-4-09

---

Minutes of the Meeting of May 27, 2009

Present: Dick Chabot, Frank Hubacz, Chet Lubelczyk, Robert Smith  
Guest: Selectman Mary Walter

1. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:25 PM by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith chaired the Meeting.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting of May 14, 2009 were presented. A Motion was made by Mr. Chabot, and seconded by Mr. Lubelczyk, to approve the Minutes as presented. Three voted in favor, one member abstained. The Minutes were approved. Attachment
3. The discussion of the FY 10 budget continued. It was noted that following a meeting with Mr. Lovett and Mr. Smith on May 20, 2009, the Water Commissioners had agreed to remove salary increases in their FY 10 budget request. It was reported that as a result of continuing discussions with Town Departments, and a re-examination of revenue assumptions, the projected FY 10 deficit had been reduced to \$121,310. It was explained that no follow-up meeting with Chairman Hicks or Superintendent Nosek had been scheduled because of the School Committee's May 14, 2009 email to the Board of Selectmen which recommended a FY 10 budget of \$5,463,076, which was considerably higher than the \$5,346,808 recommended by the Committee. Members of the Committee expressed regret that no salary 'freeze' for faculty had been proposed, to supplement other budget reductions being considered by the School Committee. Members of the Committee asked Ms. Walter and Mr. Smith to plan a format for the June 4, 2009 'Forum' on the FY 10 budget.
4. A brief update was presented by Ms. Walter on efforts to close out FY 09. The reimbursement for winter ice storm damage has not been received, but is expected by June 30, 2009. This will help off-set expenses for the cleanup. Budget transfers are being made to balance various budgets; members of the Committee noted that any unnecessary transfers would reduce projected 'free cash' needed to balance FY 10. The question of the final payment of Local Aid for general government was discussed, and the possibility that it might not be received. This could have a serious impact on FY 10. It was also noted that no final word had been received on the final payment of Chapter 70

funds, due June 30, 2009. The potential impact of the Governor's proposal to reduce State funding of Chapter 70, and supplement Federal 'stimulus' dollars for State funds was also discussed. It was noted that uncollected FY 09 property taxes remained high, with \$219,956 outstanding as of May 26, 2009.

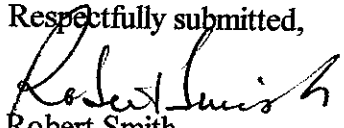
5. The Committee approved two budget transfers previously approved by the Board of Selectmen. A transfer of \$1,228.00 from the Unemployment Account to the NBEMA Expense Account for the repair of a generator used during the ice storm was reviewed. A Motion was made by Mr. Hubacz, and seconded by Mr. Chabot, to approve the transfer. The Motion was unanimously approved. A second transfer request, for \$122.64 from the Chapter 90 interest account to the Ice Storm Salary Account, for payment of police salary during the storm, was also reviewed. A Motion was made by Mr. Hubacz, and seconded by Mr. Chabot, to approve the transfer. The Motion was unanimously approved. Attachments

6. The Committee received a copy of Mr. Baird's letter to the Board of Selectmen in which he formally resigned from the Committee. The letter was received by the Committee on May 20, 2009. The Committee expressed its thanks to Mr. Baird for his years as a member of the Finance Committee, and his service to the Town of North Brookfield. Attachment

7. Mr. Lubelczyk discussed the possibility of utilizing short-term borrowing if that became necessary in late June. He also expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of 'regionalizing' services, purchasing, and use of equipment to reduce duplication of costs. Ms. Walter provided information about various meetings she has attended with area officials in which a regional approach has been discussed. She indicated that officials in area Towns are interested in discussing the concept in more detail. The Committee agreed to include the concept on a future Agenda.

8. The next Meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the Elementary School Auditorium. The 'Budget Forum' will begin at 7:00 PM.

9. With no further business before the Committee, a Motion was made by Mr. Hubacz, and seconded by Mr. Chabot, to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was unanimously approved. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Robert Smith