

Town of Montville Finance Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2013  
4:00 PM Town Council Chambers

1. The meeting was called to order by Councilor Jaskiewicz at 4:00 PM. Present: Councilors Buebendorf, Jones and Jaskiewicz, Finance Director Terry Hart, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Remarks from the Public – none

4. Councilor Buebendorf moved, second by Councilor Jones, to approve the minutes for the 2/26/13 special meeting. Vote 3-0 in favor, minutes approved.

5. New Business

- a. Review of the Public Works 2013-14 Budget - Public Works Director Don Bourdeau highlighted the two larger requested increases that include personnel (adding one full time custodian to accommodate the increased needs due to the new Public Safety Building and the use of Old Town Hall for social services, three promotions for maintainers and a custodian, and step increases) and diesel due to increasing costs. He identified his main priorities: tree trimming and road maintenance, and responded to questions pertaining to many other line items. In response to questions, Finance Director Terry Hart will provide information regarding cell phone usage and 2010-2012 actuals for catch basins expenses to be available for the next finance meeting. Mr. Bourdeau stated that this is a tight budget, he has had few increases in the past several years, and that the budget is as lean as it can be.

Mr. Bourdeau also addressed the budget requests for Camp Oakdale, explaining the large increase for field maintenance relates to increased field usage with the addition of the lacrosse program; fields can no longer be closed for rotating maintenance and they must be maintained regularly for safety.

There were no questions relating to the Solid Waste portion of the budget.

- b. Discussion of the 2013-2018 Capital Plan including funds allocated for Black Ash Road

Town Planner Marcia Vlaun explained the funds that were donated to the Town by a developer years ago for the purpose of improving the intersection at Black Ash Road and Old Colchester Road. Since this money has not been expended for this purpose, Ms. Vlaun proposed using it to improve the historical church now owned by the Town. The committee requested that Ms. Hart provide more specific information about the Black Ash funds for the next meeting.

Lt. Leonard Bunnell explained his request for three additional police cars and addressed concerns about how the use of the cars is determined, and the rationale for

police officers who reside in town bringing the police cars home. He stated that currently four cars have been driven over 100,000 miles. He also explained the request for a new patrol boat for the Gardner Lake Authority and the arrangement the authority has with respect to sharing expenses among Montville, Salem and Bozrah. A question was raised about firearms and whether that expense should be in the regular or capital budget. Ms. Hart stated that what is included in the Capital Improvement Plan may need to change depending on the outcome of the governor's new budget proposals.

Councilor Buebendorf, second by Councilor Jones, moved to recess for a couple of minutes. Vote 3-0, motion passed. The committee recessed at 5:30. Councilor Jones left the meeting at 5:30. The meeting resumed at 5:35.

Parks and Recreation Director Peter Bushway addressed questions about Parks and Rec priorities including a new playscape at Fair Oaks for older kids who attend summer camp, the proposed multiuse path for which grant money might be available, and lighting requests for outdoor fields.

Mr. Bourdeau addressed questions about Public Works requests and helped prioritize what is needed for 2013-14 and what can be delayed.

Board of Education Chairman David Rowley, Finance Director Kathy Lameroux, Steve Carrol representing maintenance, and Fleet Manager Linda Records addressed questions regarding the BOE requests. Identified as immediate needs were a handicapped van, security swipe card access for all schools, cameras for inside the high school, and new doors for Tyl Middle School. Mr. Rowley and Ms. Lameroux requested that the Capital Improvement Committee be re-formed since they felt it was an effective method of working cooperatively to identify the most pressing capital needs for Montville. Councilor Buebendorf stated that once the budget process is completed, she will include this as a discussion item for a Town Council regular meeting.

Public Safety requests were reviewed, and the committee requested that Ron Turner, Montville Fire Chief, meet with the committee to answer specific questions. Discussion also included reviewing the Public Safety Plan recommendations to see how the capital requests line up with proposed recommendations.

6. Remarks from the Public – none

7. Adjournment – Councilor Jaskiewicz, second by Councilor Buebendorf, moved to adjourn. Vote 2-0, meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Buebendorf