



# BOARD OF FINANCE

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## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

**Present:** J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman, William Britt, Kevin Riley, William Slifkin, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter. Also in attendance were Comptroller Barry Curina and First Selectman Robert Burke. Members of the Board of Education were present as well.

**Call to order:** J. Philip Gallagher called the Special Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Joint Session with Board of Education - Consideration of FY 2008-2009 potential budget shortfall.**

Comptroller Barry Curina explained the situation that at this time, it is anticipated that there is a potential shortfall in revenue by approximately \$1,487,000 based on the following projections:

Real Estate, Personal and Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$1,047,000
Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$ 45,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 184,000
Charges for Services	\$ 65,000
Use of money and property (interest income)	\$ 146,000

He advised that on the good news side of the financial picture FY 2007-2008 ended with a surplus of approximately \$800,000 which was used to increase the fund balance. The fund

balance plays an important role in the bonding process. We do have a major bond issue coming up with the addition of the High School project. Discussion took place on the role that the fund balance plays with upcoming bonding.

It was thought that perhaps the 2007-2008 surplus could be used to offset the potential shortfall, leaving approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 to be made up. Mr. Curina did say that tax collections have improved (somewhat) since October but realistically, there is only 6 months left to make up the shortfall.

J. Philip Gallagher called on the Board of Education to review their accounts and spending, citing that approximately 70% of the budget is education related. This equates to approximately \$490,000 on the education side. The town side is about \$210,000. J. Philip Gallagher suggested that since the Board of Education was meeting the next night (December 4<sup>th</sup>) that they might immediately address the shortfall by adding the item to their agenda for consideration. Mr. Curina advised that the town has been on a "freeze" for several weeks. Ms. Yonksy, Board of Education Director of Fiscal Services advised that Board of Education has also frozen spending now for over a month.

A general discussion took place regarding the overall state of the economy, tax collections, foreclosures, etc.

Discussion also took place regarding the real possibility of less State funding for next years budget and the impact that would have on the revenue side of the budget.

As there was no further discussion, William Britt made a motion, which was seconded by John Dieter, to adjourn tonight's at 8:24 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary