



**City of Bristol
Special Board of Finance Meeting
May 16, 2011**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 1st floor, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut. The following Commissioners were in attendance Chairman Richard Miecznikowski Vice Chairman John Smith, Mayor Art Ward, Commissioners Robert Casar , Lisa Casey, Cheryl Thibeault, Paul Tonon and Robert Wojtek. Greg Fradette was absent. Also present from the Comptroller's Office: Glenn Klocko and Robin Manuele.

May 12, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There will be a Special Board of Finance Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 5:30 pm in City Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Agenda

1. Chairman Miecznikowski to call the meeting to order.
2. To adopt a single installment tax payment for motor vehicles in the 2011-2012 fiscal year payable July 1, 2011 and to take any action necessary.
3. To adopt a single installment tax payment for property tax due in an amount of \$100 or less payable July 1, 2011 and two installments based on a property tax due in an amount greater than \$100 payable on July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 and to take any necessary action.
4. To adopt the budget estimate for the Bristol Water Department Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
5. To adopt the budget estimate for the Solid Waste Disposal Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
6. To adopt the budget estimate for the Sewer Operating and Assessment Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
7. To adopt the budget estimate for the Community Development Block Grant, appropriate the City's share and the Reprogrammed Funds of the Community Development Operating Budget for fiscal 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
8. To adopt the budget estimate for the Pine Lake Challenge Course Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
9. To adopt the budget estimate for the Internal Service Fund which includes the Self Insured Workers' Compensation Fund and the Health Benefits Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
10. To adopt the budget estimate for the School Lunch Program for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.

11. To adopt the General Fund Estimated Operating Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.
12. To adopt the 2011-2012 Capital Budget and to take any action as necessary.
13. Adjournment.

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRMAN
Richard Miecznikowski

Glenn S. Klocko
Board of Finance Clerk

1. Chairman Miecznikowski to call the meeting to order.
2. To adopt a single installment tax payment for motor vehicles in the 2011-2012 fiscal year payable July 1, 2011 and to take any action necessary.

Mayor Ward made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"In accordance with provision of Section 12-144a of the Connecticut General Statutes, 1965 revision, the City adopts a single installment tax payment for motor vehicles in the 2011-2012 fiscal year to be payable July 1, 2011 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

3. To adopt a single installment tax payment for property tax due in an amount of \$100 or less payable July 1, 2011 and two installments based on a property tax due in an amount greater than \$100 payable on July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 and to take any necessary action.

Commissioner Tonon made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"To adopt a single installment tax payment for property tax due in an amount of \$100 or less payable July 1, 2011 and two installments based on a property tax due in an amount greater than \$100 payable on July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- 4. To adopt the budget estimate for the Bristol Water Department Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Casar made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tonon.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Bristol Water Department Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$7,015,510 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- 5. To adopt the budget estimate for the Solid Waste Disposal Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Thibeault.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Solid Waste Disposal Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$2,728,405 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- 6. To adopt the budget estimate for the Sewer Operating and Assessment Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Vojtek made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Sewer Operating and Assessment Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$5,115,420 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- 7. To adopt the budget estimate for the Community Development Block Grant, appropriate the City's share and the Reprogrammed Funds of the Community Development Operating Budget for fiscal 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Tonon made a motion seconded by Commissioner Casar.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Community Development Block Grant for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$574,924, appropriate \$4,676 in Reprogrammed Funds and \$381,735 to the Bristol Development Authority transferred from the General Fund and

recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Commissioner Thibeault expressed her concerns regarding the promotions and advertising line item. The presentation for the use of these funds could have been better and she would like to see the fruits of one show before committing to having someone attend multiple shows. Mayor Ward stated the City is not restricted to certain shows and he will review the attendance at any and all events. Cheryl explained she is not sure the events listed would directly benefit the Industrial Park.

Commissioner Thibeault made a motion to reduce the advertising line item by \$4,000.

Mayor Ward stated this money is not committed to any organization and will be spent to build a solid foundation.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

8. **To adopt the budget estimate for the Pine Lake Challenge Course Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Thibeault made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tonon.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Pine Lake Challenge Course Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$177,850 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

9. **To adopt the budget estimate for the Internal Service Fund which includes the Self Insured Workers' Compensation Fund and the Health Benefits Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.**

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Casar.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the Internal Service Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$32,234,955; \$3,503,455 for the New Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Fund and \$28,731,500 for the Health Benefits Fund and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

10. To adopt the budget estimate for the School Lunch Program for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Vojtek made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"To adopt the budget estimate for the School Lunch Program for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$3,093,425 and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Commissioner Vojtek expressed his concerns regarding the accuracy of the money. Dr. Streifer explained the Board of Education revised the School Lunch budget which includes raising the prices for both students and adults along with laying off four cafeteria workers. The Healthy Foods money is not taken into account in the budget.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

11. To adopt the General Fund Estimated Operating Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 and to take any action as necessary.

Mayor Ward made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tonon.

"To adopt the General Fund budget estimate for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$171,149,960 as presented by Chairman Miecznikowski and have the budget advertised in a local newspaper and recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Commissioner Thibeault stated in total she does agree with the amount of the budget because it represents a zero mill rate increase, but she can not go along with the budget. To return the Board of Education to a level of funding from a few years ago is probably an unnecessary burden to the school program and jeopardizes Westwoods and all day kindergarten. More changes need to be made to the budget to increase the BOE budget, which would take from other Departments. Suggestions were emailed to Vice Chairman Smith which took money from actual departments, not Debt Service or Insurance. The burden is not equally shared between the Board of Education and City departments.

Commissioner Vojtek agreed his goal was to have a zero increase budget, but has a problem with the burden put on the Board of Education. These are really difficult times and the Board is trying their best to do what's right for all citizens and Dr. Streifer can look at the priorities to come up with other cuts or funding to save programs.

Commissioner Smith stated the State is \$400 million short from the concessions, and asked if there is any indication where that money will be coming from. Mayor Ward stated he check CCM's website prior to the meeting and there is no indication where it could come from. Commissioner Smith explained he was reviewing the State's revenues and it looks like the City will be receiving increased revenue than budgeted for State grants such as Excess Cost and less than budgeted for Student Transportation. Glenn explained when you look at all the State grants; there are some over budget and some under budget. In the end, the City will be approximately \$500,000 over budget. Robin

explained at the May Board of Finance meeting there will be an item appropriating \$370,980 of this money to purchase capital items which were requested in the 2011-2012 budget but not approved.

Lisa Casey arrived at 5:54 p.m.

Chairman Miecznikowski stressed we have had difficult economic times. It has been very difficult for the Mayor and Board of Finance to adopt this budget with so much uncertainty. Expenses in towns are rising steadily, while State funding is being frozen or reduced. Spending has been cut to the bone on the City side, and is now being cut on the Board of Education side. Services still need to remain within the City. Rich is advocating a zero increase. The City is balanced with the wants and needs of the departments. The State is taxing everyone, and with extra taxes, it is a travesty and injustice to go up on the mill rate this year. The Board of Finance has always treated the Board of Education as fairly as possible, in good times money wasn't questioned, it was just given. Other towns are suffering greatly due to cuts in the education funding. The Board is going to have some very important decisions to make with their adjustment. The Board of Finance does not have any line item veto and does not want to step on any ones toes.

Chairman Miecznikowski went over a list of items he found in the Board of Education item that he felt could be potentially cut and not impact the education programs. The equipment and smartboards can be adjusted downward.

The reductions totaled \$1,211,911. \$590,336 of that was from savings due to better claims experience for Health Insurance. Other reductions included \$42,925 worth of smartboards, reducing \$150,000 of the \$287,918 budget for Dues & Fees, reducing the Maintenance of Plant Equipment by \$85,000, reducing the Operation of Buildings Equipment by \$50,000, reducing the Teaching & Learning Curriculum Impr/Texbook by \$100,000. Last year the budgeted amount for this item was \$287,320 and the request for 2011-2012 was \$433,414. It would be greatly appreciated if the Board of Education reviewed these suggestions.

Mayor Ward stated when Tom O'Brien and Dr. Streifer first approached the Board at their presentation it was stated they could not deal with two years of zero. It was understood there was a potential of experiencing a zero this year due to the fact the JOBS money was available. Looking back to 2008-2009 BOE had an increase of \$5 million, 2009-2010 an increase of \$1.5 million and 2010-2011 increased \$300,000. Rich is 100% right, when the funds are available there is no hesitation or reservation for full funding for Education. Over the past three years, the City side has sacrificed and sacrificed dearly. With union concessions, elimination of 35 jobs through attrition, services have suffered, overtime is monitored by the Mayor, consolidation of departments and conferences and seminars are only considered if they directly serve accreditation purposes. The Mayor has seven grandchildren within the system and is concerned with funding and programs. There is still uncertainty with the State budget and it is possible for the Board of Education to experience a zero.

Following a roll call vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commission Casar	Yes	Commissioner Smith	Yes
Commissioner Thibeault	No	Commissioner Vojtek	Yes
Commission Tonon	Yes	Commissioner Casey	No
Mayor Ward	Yes	Chairman Miecznikowski	Yes

12. To adopt the 2011-2012 Capital Budget and to take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Thibeault made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"To adopt the Capital Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 totaling \$6,090,700 and recommend approval of this action to the Planning Commission and to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance subject to the call of the Mayor on or before June 3, 2011."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Ward made a motion seconded by Commissioner Casar.

"to adjourn at 6:05 p.m."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Attest:



Glenn S. Klocko
Board of Finance Clerk