

Town of Southington  
Board of Finance  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

STENOGRAPHER'S NOTE: The Minutes are now being prepared in summary style. Please refer to the videotape for more details.

Appropriations from Contingency Account:

Approved to date .....	\$335,332
Approved this meeting.....	<u>130,000</u>
Total Appropriations.....	\$465,332

Appropriations with Revenue Offsets:

Approved to date .....	\$481,563
Approved this meeting.....	<u>24,000</u>
Total Appropriations.....	\$505,563

Acting Chairperson Joseph Labieniec called the Regular Meeting of the Town of Southington Board of Finance to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall with the following members in attendance:

Anthony Casale, Jr., Sandra Feld, Edward Pocock, Jr. & Wayne Stanforth

Also in attendance: Emilia Portelinha, Finance Director  
Garry Brumback, Town Manager

Absent: John Leary, Chairperson

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone in attendance.

**JOSEPH LABIENIEC, ACTING CHAIR, Presiding:**

**III. Public Hearing Items**

None

**Set the Mill Rate for the FY 2012-2013 Adopted Budget**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to set the next year's fiscal year's mill rate at 27.48 which is the mathematical function of the expenditures approved by the Council on Monday. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Ms. Feld made a statement expressing her displeasure with this year's budget process citing several different reasons. She felt the management's proposals were rubberstamped. The Republican majority on both boards simply rubberstamped the budgets as proposed over the constant objections by the Democratic members.

She felt the majority party had abdicated their responsibility for accountability and to provide the best budget for the Southington residents.

She noted questionable items that Democratic members wanted cut that were not cut.

She explained the BOE was given another shot at the \$1.6 million they received last year from the federal government only this year they received it from the taxpayers.

She felt much more should have been cut from both budgets and was not.

She noted an article/letter to the editor that appeared in last week's Observer written by James Matthews of Southington. You can get it on line and it's excellent.

Mr. Stanforth noted the makeup of the BOF. This budget did a lot of good things. We finally balanced the budget in accordance with a previous policy set by the BOF. Town spending actually went down.

Our job is to make a responsible budget and not just to cut the budget. I think that's what we did. There were disagreements. The six of us came together and we passed this budget and voted on by the Council and that's where we are today.

The Acting Chair commented on the budget process. He felt that previous comments made in previous meetings was highly inaccurate.

I think it's important for the public to understand that all six members voting on the BOF, I think in their own way, all do what they feel is in the best interest of the town.

We met for over 11 hours, the six of us together and I'm quite certain we all spent more than that 11 hours going over the budget. Everybody worked hard and there are differences of opinion.

Spoke of John Leary and his being the least partisan politician in all of the town.

Discussion.

We had four meetings and nearly 12 hours of deliberation and those meetings are all open to the public and the press and they were at those meetings.

There were complaints that the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools should not be at the meetings or if they are there, they shouldn't participate. I respect that opinion.

My feeling is they absolutely should be at the table. They are available to answer questions right on the spot. It is extremely helpful and we owe it to the citizens to make sure we are making our decisions based on the most updated information.

Discussion.

I don't believe it was intimidation. If I'm going to make an appropriate cut, I'll make it. If it's the right cut, it's the right cut regardless of whether or not he's in the room. I agree with John Leary's decision to have the Town Manager there. I hope that continues next year and beyond.

Last year it was a 4-2 board and we passed 6-0. This year it is the same four Republicans sitting on the board with two different Democrats and it seems to be a different process.

A lot has been said about it being a Republican controlled process with no time given to the other side or no consideration given. He noted three items that he did not get his way and that amounted to over several hundred thousands of dollars. (Fire Department, School Budget cut, funding of the sinking fund for the 53<sup>rd</sup> pay period and the reval.)

Discussion.

A budget process is negotiation and I thought we did a good job.

I understand what it means that taxes have to go up. It's very attractive to hear there could've been additional several hundred thousand dollar cut and it would lower the taxes. However, there were many things weren't appropriate: cuts to salary line items, using funds from this year to by down something from next year, cuts to technology, cut the permit tracking system.

Discussion.

In the BOE budget, we made a net cut of \$60,000 last year and that passed 6 to 0. This year the cut was a net cut of \$115,000 - almost double - and yet it passed 4 to 2.

A lot has been said and written which is inaccurate.

Mr. Casale said he ran for the BOF because he was told it was a nonpartisan board.

Discussion.

He discussed the fourth workshop as being the turning point. We brought several hundred thousand dollars worth of cuts to the table. We didn't ask for the elimination of technology or three positions or for the elimination of the Town Manager's training and education fund or IT. We asked for compromise. We were given no quarter on anything.

Discussion.

He referenced the Town Council meeting as being the same thing.  
Discussion.

I was outraged because I felt like you guys teamed up against us and decided we weren't given anything.

Discussion.

We are spending less in the general government. We could have increased services, technology and training and at the same time given the taxpayer in this economy something back.

Discussion.

Discussion back and forth on the budget process.

Roll Call Vote:	Stanforth:	Yes
	Feld:	No
	Casale:	No
	Pocock:	Yes
	Labieniec:	Yes

Motion fails. Four affirmative votes are necessary to pass.

The Acting Chair stated we are required by Charter to set the mill rate by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May which is May 21, 2012. Next Monday. I think we need to go to the Charter. He quoted Section 7-28 which was done. He quoted Section 7-29 with similar requirement for the Town Council which was done. Going to Section 7-30, which is why we are here tonight is a mathematical question and not a philosophical one, read the pertinent section.

Discussion.

Mr. Casale said he couldn't support the budget so he couldn't support the mill rate that supports the budget. Ms. Feld agreed.

The Town Manager advised he spoke with the Town Attorney about this earlier. The budget has been decided. Regardless of your vote, the majority of the BOF made a decision as did the majority of the Town Council. This is a separate and distinct question. If you can't get four affirmative votes, then you are abdicating your

responsibility as a board and we'll have to find out from the Town Attorney what happens next. It can be sent back to the Town Council for their responsibility or we can delay that because the state statute --- we're in conflict with the Charter but not the state statute. That requires a mill rate to be established prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

Discussion.

Ms. Feld said she and Mr. Casale were not going to approve this mill rate tonight.

The Acting Chair pointed out then we would no longer be in compliance with the Charter. Ms. Feld asked for more legal advice.

The Chair called for a recess at this time to contact the Town Attorney thru Mr. Brumback.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 7:26 o'clock, p.m.)

(Whereupon, the meeting was resumed at 7:29 o'clock, p.m.)

**JOSEPH LABIENIEC, Resuming the Chair:**

Mr. Brumback advised after consulting with the Town Attorney, the Attorney indicates there are two options if you can't come to an agreement by May 21<sup>st</sup>, the deadline in the Charter:

- you can abdicate your responsibility to the Town Council to be decided or

- the Town Attorney feels comfortable in calling a special meeting once the entire board can reconvene at the earliest date which would be Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion back and forth between the members.

Ms. Feld said she and Mr. Casale would prefer the second alternative.

The Acting Chair asked: If 27.48 is not appropriate what mill rate are you looking to have passed tonight? And, how would you propose passing that based on the fact this is a mathematical equation. Ms. Feld said she had given no thought to it. Mr. Casale just said bottom line is he wouldn't support it.

Discussion.

It is unfortunate we are going to be out of compliance with the Charter but the Acting Chair would set something up when John Leary returns for a meeting.

Discussion.

Mr. Casale made a motion to have a special meeting of the BOF at 5:30 on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Ms. Feld seconded.  
Discussion.

Mr. Brumback said folks could have a chance to check calendars. We need to do it the first possible day following the ability to reconvene the board. My suggestion would be to table this. I would strongly encourage this board not to abdicate. It's a precedent that I think none of you all believes in and wants to set.

Discussion amongst the members.

Mr. Casale withdrew his motion for the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> and changed it to: I make the motion that the BOF hold a special meeting at their earliest convenience on this matter. Ms. Feld seconded after withdrawing her second on the first motion.

Mr. Brumback said he didn't know if we could go beyond the next meeting of the Town Council which is the 29<sup>th</sup>. At that point we're out of compliance and we haven't given the Town Council the opportunity to bring us into compliance. I suspect it is not an option to go to a day after.

Discussion.

The Acting Chair cited Section 7-30 indicating this is not a time to debate the budget. It's a time to set the appropriate taxation rate. That is a mathematical equation. The number is not going to change and there really is no purpose for a meeting other than the fact it appears that this is obviously not going to pass tonight. That's unfortunate.

Mr. Pocock felt the matter should be tabled. And, work as the Town Manager suggested to possibly here on the 29<sup>th</sup>. If not, it will move up to the Town Council the same night and we'll get this taken care of per the regulations and statutes.

As to Mr. Casale's motion:

Roll Call:	Stanforth: No
	Feld: Yes
	Casale: Yes
	Pocock: No
	Labieniec: No

Mr. Pocock made a motion to table and allow the Town Manager to give us ample time to set up a meeting that we're all available for and hopefully that'd be somewhere in the area of the 29<sup>th</sup> so we can pass this up to the Town Council if we don't come to a complete quorum so we meet the state statutes. Mr. Stanforth seconded.

Mr. Brumback indicated tabling will provide him to get back to the members of the Board and answer their questions. We have until Monday. If we can get this done at a special meeting between now and then, that'd be fine. That provides the flexibility all of the way up to and including the Town Council meeting. I am assuming that if we are still out of compliance with the Charter the Council has no choice but to act, but I could be wrong.

Mr. Leary cannot participate in the meeting via telephone.

Roll Call:	Stanforth:	Yes
	Feld:	Yes
	Casale:	Yes
	Pocock:	Yes
	Labieniec:	Yes

Motion to table passes 5 to 0.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **1. Approval of Minutes** from the meeting of April 11, 2012.

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve which Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed on a majority voice vote with Ms. Feld abstaining.

##### **2. Discuss Blum, Shapiro & Company's proposal and reappointment**

The proposal is for no increase for audit fiscal year ended 6/30/2012. The price is \$57,900. They have also agreed to hold that fee if they are reappointed for fiscal year 2013.

Mr. Casale mad that motion. Mr.Pocock seconded.

Mr. Pocock added in the future, I think we need to occasionally look at a different set of eyes when dealing with auditors. I also believe in the budget we allowed a 10% increase, so we still have that left in there. I'd like to see us start on this in December or January so we have a chance to look at other people that handle this. Discussion.

Mr. Casale agreed with those comments. He also asked that the 10% increase for this line item, that we look forward to seeing that increase returned to the taxpayer at the end of the fiscal year since we are not going to use.

Mr. Stanforth stated he would support the motion.

Ms. Feld added the board has a lot of policies and procedures which we said right after the budget we were getting into: debt policy, fiscal policy and this would be part of that, I believe.

(Motion passed 5 to 0 on a roll call vote.)

## **V. Assess current financial state of the town**

### **1. Review revenue vs budget**

Ms. Portelinha reported the property tax revenue is currently up \$400,000 which is a timing issue and I think it will be lower. I'm projecting out that we are going to be over budget by \$400,000 which is a good thing in revenues.

Interest on taxes is \$150,000 that I am projecting.

Building permits I'm projecting are going to be \$50,000 under budget.

Interest on investments about \$130,000 under budget is projected.

We have received our final payment on our ECS grant. We did receive \$73,000 more than originally budget which we would be using the \$76,000 shortage in the VoAg tuitions.

We still have a couple of grants expected and we anticipate they'll be coming in on par.

Overall, as far as revenues, right now we are projecting about \$475,000 above budget. And, the \$375,000 obviously we are hoping is used for fund balance. That leaves us \$100,000 in the black.

Ms. Portelinha answered questions from individual board members on certain line items.

### **2. Review expenses vs budget**

Ms. Portelinha said she didn't have as a good a handle on the expenditures. But not to worry, it is just we have departments spending. We are going to be meeting with departments to see where they stand what they feel they'll need for the rest of the fiscal year.

Mr. Brumback further added that it is their hope at the next regular BOF meeting, we will see honestly the end of the year happening and make recommendations on appropriate ways to use the money.

Mr. Stanforth pointed out bulky waste. They are 91% spent on the budget.

Discussion.

Discussion on the non public school nurses account.

Discussion on the FEMA reimbursements expected. Ms. Portelinha explained the new emergency fund line created and discussion occurred as to the criteria for using that line item.

### **3. Discuss unplanned items that impact revenue or expenses**

Ms. Portelinha reported nobody has indicated that there are going to be huge shortfalls.

### **4. Sub Committee Reports (Emphasis on financial aspects)**

#### **A. Sewer Committee**

Mr. Stanforth reported on the phosphorus issue. He deferred to the Town Manager to give a quick update.

Mr. Brumback stated that Senate Bill 440 passed. It required the DEEP to collaborate with municipalities impacted by this. And, secondly, it made phosphorus eligible for the Clean Water Act fund which grants can be up to potentially 30%.

We are now talking to the DEEP and the EPA trying to work through the permitting process and potential other alternatives in order to extend the time period out. And, to allow some science to work that may allow us to not do limits that are unnecessary in order to clean up the Quinnipiac River.

In the next sewer budget we are going to be responsible for going to 2.7 which is in the tens of thousands instead of the tens of millions but there is an impact. Part of the sewer increase contemplates that going forward.

This is going to be a maintenance issue and will be on the rate payers and not the taxpayers. We are fairly comfortable that the WPCA will make chemical adjustments that will allow us to get the point sent limits without any significant capital expense.

The digester cleaning and inspection is an ongoing issue continued Mr. Stanforth. There is a problem we need to fix now. We authorized an RFP to work on the solution to the problem.

Any problems that come up, we fix. We are doing well.

#### **B. Public Works Committee**

Ms. Feld reported no meeting this month.

### **C. Education Capital Building Committee**

Mr. Pocock had nothing to report.

### **D. Open Space Committee**

Mr. Pocock noted the meeting where the Primus Property was walked. The town is going to cooperate with us and do some cleanup work there. It's going to be a good site. It is also stopping a lot of housing that would potentially go in there which in turns saves our school system. The property is located off of Farmstead Road, off Mill Street.

### **E. Self Insurance Committee**

Mr. Labieniec stated the report through March and March was pretty much on budget, \$57,000 over. That means for the first nine months of the year, five month have been over. A pretty steady year. We are currently \$238,000 over budget that is just slightly over 1% of the overall budget. We are approximately 7% above the prior year. Things are pretty steady and we look to, barring any unforeseen month, we should be right at or around budget.

### **F. Blue Ribbon Parks Committee**

Mr. Leary will report at the June meeting.

## **7. Board Communications**

Mr. Pocock said he was concerned with seasonal help and overtime and quick purchases. I want to talk to the Town Manager before I bring it up for discussion.

Mr. Stanforth asked about the Capital Fund. He mentioned some items that should be closed out. Ms. Portelinha agreed that needed to be done. Mr. Stanforth asked for that to be on the agenda in the future. Ms. Portelinha noted sometimes there are balances and excess authorizations and not actual cash. We need to go through those.

Mr. Labieniec brought up on behalf of Mr. Leary the discussion of a number of policies and procedures including the auditor selection. What is everyone's availability in the first half of June to have a meeting? If everyone can send Mr. Leary an email on the days and times they are **not** available the weeks of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. We will check the Chambers availability and try to coordinate a meeting.

The meeting will be to discuss policies and procedures - this will be the first meeting of more.

## **VI. Public Communications (Excluding Public Hearing Items)**

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue. He asked for a report at the next meeting on the Investment Committee and to have that item added to the agenda with the other committee reports.

Regarding the new budget, he referred to the fire hydrant rental and he thanked Mr. Pocock and the Town Manager for their assistance in finalizing it with the Board of Water Commissioners. This was a reduction of \$195,000 from a proposed budget of \$423,408 making it \$228,408. Big bucks. Benefited all the taxpayers of this town.

Discussion.

Talked about the new budget being a zero or negative increase in the town government side. Outstanding.

Discussion.

Spoke in favor of the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools being included in the budget discussion with the BOF as they had the answers to the questions. A new philosophy of town management and town government. I appreciated it. I thank them.

Spoke about the BOE cuts of 22 positions. The heavy lifting was done before it got to you guys and I thank Dr. Erardi for that.

As to the mill rate the town budget has been approved. This number of 27.48 mills and unless somebody is going to change their vote, the only difference between setting the mill rate tonight or doing it in two weeks is the fact that Mr. Leary is on business in Europe. Unless you are going to change your vote, all we have here tonight is petty partisan politics. It drives me and the citizens of this town nuts! We need to set our mill rate tonight and let us go on with doing business.

Mr. Casale made responding comments addressing the comments made by Mr. Cyr about petty partisan politics and his right to vote any way he wants on this issue. If partisan politics is your problem, then where was your voice when we tried to compromise at the previous hearings?

Discussion.

## **VII. Review Long Range Plan and Priorities**

- 1. Review status of LRP items in current fiscal year budget**
  - A. Status /Reprioritizations**
  - B. Strategy Discussion**

The Acting Chair advised this Section VII would be delayed until Chairman Leary is in attendance. Therefore, I will postpone this section.

### VIII. Conduct Administrative Business

#### 1. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriation     \$2,500 \*     Capital Budget - Rails to Trails Donations
- B. Appropriation     \$ 460 \*     Youth Services - Outside Programs (Spec Rev)
- C. Appropriation     \$2,087 \*     Community Svc - FEMA EMer. Food & Shelter Grant (Spec Rev)
- D. Appropriation     \$ 675 \*     Youth Services - Outside Programs (Spec Rev)
- Appropriation     \$2,016 \*     Youth Services - Kristen's Kloset (Spec Rev)
- E. Appropriation     \$21,500 \*     Streetlighting - Equipment Maintenance

Ms. Feld made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Casale seconded.

Discussion was had on the Rails to Trails account. This is a donation account to purchase benches.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### 2. Manager's Memos

- 1. **Transfer**                     \$3,508             Calendar House - Temporary/Seasonal Wages

Mr. Brumback explained this is to cover shortfalls based on the shelter expenditures.

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Casale seconded.

Mr. Casale asked if this was common place this time of year for this amount of transfers. Mr. Brumback said this is the first month we're able to transfer between departments. This is cleaning up a lot of things.

Discussion.

Mr. Pocock said this is what happens. They're cleaning up and they're spending money and they're running in to you and getting purchase orders as I addressed with you today. I'm not happy with it. But there is people out there not getting paid by the town that would like to be paid. We've got to put a lid on this. Mr. Brumback said he is happy to address this but we need to sit down and talk specifics.

Discussion.

Mr. Pocock noted this is shelter expense and why isn't it coming out of that emergency account set up.

Discussion.

Ms. Portelinha explained at this point the only thing that came out of that fund was the emergency appropriation by the Town Council for the tree removal, et cetera. That was done for the contractors.

Discussion.

Mr. Pocock said this is not the only department affected. We are approving things for overtime, et cetera, et cetera when we're getting away from the basic budget of overtime. We're trying to use Irene and everything else to do this. I want a breakdown on what this was being used for --- this goes for library, parks, et cetera. We get generic letters that don't say anything. Temporary/seasonal help is one of my pet peeves here tonight. I'll work on that later. Mr. Brumback said he would be glad to sit down and discuss it.

Mr. Brumback said rather than going for appropriations, that's the reason we're doing it this way --- we're going for transfers. We are looking for opportunities where they had unexpected less expenditures than predicts. The intent of all of these transfers is to first and foremost require the department heads to manage the budget within their department before we go for an appropriation. It is consume everything you need as you need it and then at the end of the year if we need to make adjustments for unforecasted expenses, then we do that and come to you for support. We can do this differently and do it during the course of the year.

Discussion.

Mr. Pocock questioned the temporary/seasonal help paid for this situation.

Discussion.

Mr. Brumback suggested a table and bringing it back to the department head. He'll be here at the next meeting and we'll sort it out then.

Mr. Casale removed his second to the motion.

Discussion on the letter of explanation that was provided.

Ms. Feld made a motion to table. Mr. Casale seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**2. Transfer                    \$700                    Town Clerk - Office Supplies**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve which Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**3. Tax Collector Suspense Transfer List**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve the Tax Collector Suspense Transfer List for \$79,486.44. Mr. Casale seconded.

Ms. Portelinha explained that on an annual basis the tax collector determines what accounts are uncollectible. In certain instances we have to suspend the account to send it to collection. The tax collector has determined \$79,486.44 should be suspended. This means we're taking it off the books as a receivable but by no means have we stopped trying to collect on it.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**4. Appropriation            \$1,200 \*            Calendar House (Part Time Bus Drivers Salary (Spec Rev)**

**Appropriation            \$1,200 \*            Calendar House - Overtime (Spec Rev)**

**Appropriation            \$5,482 \*            Calendar House - Gasoline (Spec Rev)**

**Appropriation            \$1,500 \*            Calendar House - Vehicle Maintenance (Spec Rev)**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Casale seconded.

Motion passed on a majority voice vote with Mr. Pocock abstaining.

**5. Transfer                    \$3,730                    Tax Collector - Collection Services**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Discussion about how often tax sales occur.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- 6.    **Transfer**                 **\$70,000**     Police Department - Overtime pay
- Transfer**                 **\$17,061**     Central Dispatch - Regular Wages
- Transfer**                 **\$8,000**      Police Department - Tuition
- Reimbursement
- Transfer**                 **\$37,000**     Police Department - Utilities

Chief Daly answered questions from the board members. In response to Mr. Casale's question, he explained the need for the overtime. He noted it is a high overtime time of the year due to vacations. We limit as much as we can but we do have to have replacements. Supervisors we replace 100% of the time.

In response to a query by Mr. Casale, Chief Daly explained why there is money in regular wages. We had two vacancies, two long term injuries where they are partially paid by workers comp and we had one officer assigned military leave and we had another one on military leave and just came back to work.

Mr. Casale asked why the utilities account was short. Chief Daly referred to the three prior years' expenses in this account. There was a slight increase in the cost of utilities. Just every year it is under budget and this year the Town Manager raised it some.

Discussion of the regular wage account balance.

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- 7.    **Transfer**                 **\$1,700**     Animal Control Fund - Overtime
- Transfer**                 **\$2,800**     Animal Control Fund - Utilities

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote

- 8.    **Transfer**                 **\$13,000**    Central Dispatch - Overtime

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- 9.    **Transfer**                 **\$5,000**     Parks Department - Gasoline/Diesel
- Transfer**                 **\$1,000**     Highway Department - Building
- Maintenance

**Transfer**                    **\$2,500**                    Parks - Equipment Maintenance

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**10. Transfer**                    **\$ 285**                    Youth Services - Travel Reimbursement

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**11. Transfer**                    **\$20,000**                    Sewer Fund - Plant Overtime

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Casale seconded.

Ms. Feld questioned why there is \$20,000 extra in chemicals. Ms. Portelinha said they bid out the chemicals but she did not ask the question of the department head. Mr. Brumback said the overtime is necessary due to failures of our digesters and it's required a significant amount of overtime. We may be spending chemicals at this point and looking for opportunities to transfer in the future.

Ms. Feld made a motion to table as she'd like an explanation at the next meeting from Mr. DeGioia.

Ms. Portelinha advised they are in the red and will continue to operate in the red as the department of labor trumps the board. We have to pay.

Mr. Brumback said she would get her explanation as to why there is extra money in the chemical account. But, we do need to do the transfer.

Discussion about the balance in the chemical account.

Mr. Pocock was angry that the department heads don't give us enough information. They should give enough information so we know what's going on here. If that was overtime, I wouldn't be voting for it. Some department heads are very good to work with. At least, they should let us know what's going on here. If there's no information, I'm going to start voting no.

Mr. Stanforth advised this was addressed at the sewer committee and the Town Manager and the Council are aware of it. Unfortunately, this is an issue that has to be taken care of.

Ms. Feld agreed with Mr. Pocock. We also should know why there is \$20,000 in overtime. Specifically what was it for? Someone besides John DeGioia should know.

Mr. Brumback responded he would be happy to explain this at the next meeting.

Ms. Feld pointed out without information we should not be asked to vote.

Ms. Portelinha said she spoke to John DeGioia and he seemed to indicate the \$20,000 could get him through the end of the fiscal year. As far as the chemicals, I did not ask why there was money in there. But if you look at the budget to-date, there is \$227,000 left in that account. I do believe he has \$20,000 to transfer to overtime.

Discussion.

Mr. Pocock said he has to know about it and he wants to see it in writing. Bottom line. The information should be here.

The information will be provided by staff.

There is a motion and a second to approve and a motion to table that supersedes.

Mr. Casale seconded the motion to table.

Roll call on the motion to table:	Stanforth:	No
	Casale:	Yes
	Feld:	Yes
	Pocock:	No
	Labieniec:	No

Motion to table fails.

Motion to approve and a second.

Mr. Pocock made clear the only reason he was voting on this was because of the overtime and the statutes. I've been down this road before. That is the only reason I'm voting for this.

Ms. Feld said she'll vote for it because she understands it has to be paid but that is with the understanding that we'll get an explanation and not just a one liner.

Mr. Brumback clearly stated he would explain it at the next meeting.

Roll call on the motion to approve:	Stanforth:	Yes
	Feld:	Yes
	Casale:	Yes
	Pocock:	Yes
	Labieniec:	Yes

Motion carries 5 to 0.

**12. Appropriation \$21,000 Sewer Fund - FICA/Medicare/MERS**  
See discussion below for explanation of the change:

**\*\*Transfer \$20,000**

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Ms. Feld seconded.

Mr. Stanforth went over the percentages for FICA, Medicare and MERS and those come to 19.21% and you're asking for 21%, why? Ms. Portelinha explained it was an estimate before she had the overtime amount. If you'd like to reduce it, that's fine.

Discussion.

Mr. Casale asked why we are transferring money for overtime but appropriating money for benefits. Ms. Portelinha responded Mr. DeGioia knows the status of all his accounts and he was able to find the money. With me, I was looking at a contingency account that has not been used. The money stays in the sewer fund if it is not spent.

Questions by Mr. Casale as to that line amount use for the year.  
Discussion.

This appropriation comes from the sewer fund contingency account noted Mr. Brumback. Ms. Portelinha said it is at \$162,373 for a balance.

Mr. Stanforth amended his motion to transfer \$20,000 from the chemical account to the Sewer Fund FICA/Medicare/MERS account. Mr. Casale seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**13. Transfer \$2,500 Sylvia Bradley - Utilities**

Mr. Casale made a motion to approve. Ms. Feld seconded.

Mr. Stanforth asked about the stipend given to the historical society operating in that building. I don't have that amount. Ms. Portelinha explained we actually pay the utilities and the maintenance costs for the Sylvia Bradley Building. It's in their budget.

Discussion.

Ms. Portelinha looked at the budget and determined they are transferring from one of their accounts to their other account.

Discussion.

Mr. Stanforth noted we are at the end of the year.  
Discussion.

Motion fails on a voice vote with Mr. Pocock and Mr. Stanforth opposed.

**14. Transfer \$500** Calendar House - Binding/Microfilming  
**Appropriation \$4,037 \*** Calendar House- Ford Van 2012 (Spec Rev)

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve. Mr. Casale seconded.

Mr. Stanforth asked for clarification of the name of the account appropriated to.

Ms. Portelinha advised they got a grant for the van and this is to pay for the balance.

Motion passed on a majority voice vote with Mr. Pocock abstaining.

**15. Transfer \$25,000** Fire - Overtime  
**Appropriation \$80,000** Fire - Overtime  
**Appropriation \$50,000** Fire - Vehicle Maintenance

Mr. Casale made a motion to separate the transfers and the appropriations. Ms. Feld seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Transfer \$25,000** Fire - Overtime

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Appropriation \$80,000** Fire - Overtime

**Appropriation \$50,000** Fire - Vehicle Maintenance

Mr. Stanforth made a motion to approve both. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Mr. Casale asked Chief Clark to explain the amount of overtime and why we're looking for an appropriation. Chief Clark said the account was less than what we requested last year. We replace 100% firefighters that are out. We have 7 on duty and we replace all of them. We don't have the luxury of extra personnel to not replace them if someone is out. It rings up a large bill.

And, with the Hurricane Irene, Storm Alfred, the Clarke Street fire and the tanker fire, they were all large expenditures. We did

put in for FEMA reimbursement. We did bill for the tanker fire, as well.

Discussion.

Ms. Feld asked if other departments had overages in their accounts and could help out the fire department. Mr. Brumback responded we are in the process of doing that now.

Discussion.

FEMA reimbursement numbers and tanker reimbursement numbers were discussed by Mr. Stanforth and the Chief. Mr. Pocock commended the Chief for billing for reimbursement of expense costs.

Discussion.

Ms. Feld asked the Chief to describe the ladder truck out of service matter which he did in detail.

The Chief explained the company he had hired this year to come in and do an evaluation of our entire fleet to find out where we stand and what needs to be done with our fleet for maintenance. They came in and looked at all of our vehicles and came up with a list of what needed to be repaired. It cost me \$1800 for the evaluation. He then in detail explained how the vehicles in question had their maintenance work done. Our firefighters are now driving down the road in vehicles that are safe and maintained. That's where the \$50,000 came in and there are still some repairs being done.

Mr. Casale thanked the Chief for doing this maintenance evaluation.

Discussion.

Motion passed 5 to 0 on a roll call vote.

Adjournment: Mr. Casale made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Pocock. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 o'clock, p.m.)