

PUBLIC HEARING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 1, 2009

NS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Lovett. Because Dr. Benoit had a prior commitment, he arrived later and Mr. Zwolenski was away on business. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.

FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 BUDGET

Mr. Lovett noted there were legal notices that should have been advertised prior to tonight's meeting and they were not.

As explained by Mr. Nadeau, Rhode Island General Laws require advertising of both a summary of the budget and the proposed tax rate for the forthcoming fiscal year. There have been significant issues in trying to get information from the state as to revenue projections and, accordingly, the ads have not run as of yet. Pursuant to RIGL 44-35-6 & 7, until those ads are run at least ten days prior to the public hearing, no public hearing can be held on a budget and no public comment can be taken tonight.

Mr. Lovett questioned whether proposed revenues in departments such as the Town Clerk's office and the Building Inspector's office might be a little higher than projected for 2010.

Mr. Biron wondered if monies collected from police details could be placed in a separate account and used to purchase cruisers.

When asked, Mrs. Hamilton stated FICA for Council members will be reinstated.

No provisions for capital improvements are included in the Administrator's proposed budget.

(Dr. Benoit arrived at 7:20 P.M.)

Mr. Lovett strongly believed the Assistant Finance Director's position should remain a full-time position.

Mr. Biron questioned Line Item 4191-610, Town Hall Maintenance and Supplies, as to why there was such a large increase. He also suggested eliminating the part-time Building/Zoning Inspector for a savings of \$11,110.00.

The salaries of the Public Works Director/Parks & Recreation Director had been combined under one total but Mr. Biron felt the amount should be listed under the Highway Department rather than Parks and Recreation.

Dr. Benoit once again questioned whether the town could legally or

from a public safety standpoint eliminate usage of some street lights.

Mr. Biron asked if the Tree Warden duties could be transferred to the Highway Department.

Mrs. Hamilton acknowledged she has a person working as a grantwriter working on a per case basis.

Mr. Biron asked how much time the Juvenile Hearing Co-ordinator spent working for the board and was told 15 to 20 hours per week.

Mr. Leclerc asked if the proposed budget for the school department of \$16,885,400.00 was a viable number and was told by Superintendent of Schools Stephen Lindberg that it was not.

MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 1, 2009

**NS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PUBLIC HEARING**

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

The meeting was called to order at 8:17 P.M. The prayer and the pledge to the flag were waived. Council members present were Dr. Benoit, Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Lovett. Mr. Zwolenski was away on business. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to enter into executive session at 8:18 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation to discuss the North Smithfield Teachers Association contract negotiations with the School Committee.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to come out of executive session at 9:33 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mrs. Hamilton informed the Council members that the town has applied for an \$11,000 federal grant. This is stimulus money to rehire the three police officers who have been laid off. It would enable the police department to recall those officers for the last two to three weeks of June. A decision should be made in a few days.

MOTION by Dr. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk