

**PUBLIC HEARING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
23, 2009**

**JUNE**

**NORTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
P.M.**

**7:00**

**The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Dr. Benoit, Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Zwolenski. Mr. Lovett was unable to attend due to work commitments. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.**

**PROPOSED BUDGET 2009/2010**

**(Department) (Administrator's Proposed Budget)**

**TOWN COUNCIL - \$13,350**

**June 23, 2009**

**Mrs. Hamilton noted that \$980 that had been deducted for FICA will be added back in for a total budget of \$14,330.**

**PROBATE COURT EXPENSE - \$7,600**

**Again, Mrs. Hamilton noted that \$300 for FICA will be added back in for a total budget of \$7,900.**

**TOWN SOLICITOR - \$158,650**

**Ms. Lisa Baillargeon questioned the need for a Town Solicitor, an Assistant Town Solicitor and an additional expense for extra-ordinary litigation. She suggested offering a competitive salary for one person and explaining what the job entails.**

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - \$148,700**

**There were no comments.**

**TOWN CLERK - \$166,470**

**There were no comments.**

**PLANNING DIVISION - \$140,420**

**There were no comments.**

**BOARD OF CANVASSERS - \$5,520**

**There were no comments.**

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT - \$213,760**

**Mrs. Hamilton would like to change the Assistant Finance Director's position to full-time and increase the salary by \$10,000 to \$35,000 for a total budget of \$223,760.**

**Mr. Bill Nangle questioned why the new Finance Director, with no municipal experience, would be making the same salary as the former Finance Director.**

**TAX ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT - \$107,010**

**There were no comments.**

**TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE - \$109,710**

**Mr. Biron questioned the rise in postage and was told it was for the revaluation mailings.**

**BOARD OF TAX REVIEW - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**AUDITS AND COMPUTER SERVICE - \$88,900**

**There were no comments.**

**ZONING BOARD EXPENSE - \$9,430**

**There were no comments.**

**PERSONNEL BOARD - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION - \$750**

**There were no comments.**

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - \$3,000**

**There were no comments.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**JUVENILE HEARING BOARD - \$3,450**

**There were no comments.**

**June 23, 2009**

**TOWN HALL - \$10,000**

**There were no comments.**

**PLANT OPERATIONS - \$15,000**

**There were no comments.**

**PRINTING AND ADVERTISING - \$14,500**

**There were no comments.**

**CONTINGENCY FUND - \$307,040**

**Ms. Lisa Baillargeon asked if Fund Balance Restoration was to**

**replenish the surplus and was told that it was.**

**SCOUTERS HALL - \$4,200**

**There were no comments.**

**NORTH SMITHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY - \$342,100**

**There were no comments.**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT - \$2,262,690**

**Mrs. Hamilton asked the department be reduced by \$10,000 for part-time help that had not been requested by Chief Reynolds.**

**Mrs. Hamilton recommended adding \$60,000 to Personnel to bring the total number of police officers to 21 and to pay the shift differential that was not included in the contract.**

**Mr. Biron noted that by adding the \$60,000, changes would have to be made to other line items such as FICA and insurances.**

**The revised total for the police department, excluding increases to line items for Longevity, In-Service Training, Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Dental Insurance, FICA, Pension and Clothing Allowance, is \$2,312,690.**

**Chief Reynolds asked the Council to consider that the department is four people short – three are on layoffs and one position has not been**

filled. There are also plans to have a recruit in the August municipal academy.

**ANIMAL CONTROL - \$69,650**

Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast commented that Clothing Allowance is a contractual item and should be increased from \$600 to \$625. He suggested that the additional \$25 come from Gas/Oil/Mechanical Expense.

**CIVIL DEFENSE - \$5,140**

There were no comments.

**NORTH SMITHFIELD FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE INC. - \$2,449,760**

Mr. Biron questioned the increase for vehicle repairs since the department is getting a new tanker.

**HYDRANT RENTAL - \$45,000**

Mr. Leclerc noted there was a \$10,000 shortage from the department request and asked if \$45,000 would be enough to cover the expense.

**INSPECTION DIVISION - \$158,580**

Mr. Leclerc stated that the Administrator had requested a \$6,000 decrease for the part-time Building/Zoning Inspector which would bring the department's proposed budget to \$152,580.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - \$729,760**

**Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast requested that Storm Clothing Allowance be increased to \$6,250. This is for two of four highway workers presently laid off. He recommended taking \$1,500 from Gas, Oil & Tires and \$1,500 from Replacement Parts.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION - \$147,740**

**Mr. Leclerc asked about the seasonal help.**

**Mr. Pendergast responded that the adjusted budget reflects funds for one laborer and no additional seasonal help. He suggested possibly**

**June 23, 2009**

**having one seasonal worker for a reduced number of weeks and also using the \$2,200 from the Parks Supervisor/Counselors line item.**

**Mr. Pendergast also noted that the line item for Uniform – Clothing Allowance should be increased from \$400 to \$625 per contract.**

**TREE WARDEN - \$3,820**

**Mr. Biron asked if some of this work could be transferred to the Highway Department because they now have a bucket truck.**

**Mrs. Hamilton stated the town's bucket truck is very different from the Tree Warden's bucket truck.**

**STREET LIGHTS - \$150,000**

**Mr. Leclerc asked if there had been any progress in reducing the number of street lights that get turned on.**

**Mrs. Hamilton stated that, per contract, the lights can be reduced by five percent. She will be looking at areas where lighting may be shut off.**

**RUBBISH DISPOSAL - \$643,000**

**Mr. Leclerc reiterated that these numbers need to be reviewed and reconciled.**

**SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES - \$10**

**There were no comments.**

**DEBT SERVICE/PRINCIPAL - \$2,175,720**

**There were no comments.**

**DEBT SERVICE/INTEREST - \$1,670,010**

**There were no comments.**

**MEDICAL AND RETIREMENT EXPENSE - \$361,570**

**There were no comments.**

**INSURANCE - \$250,000**

**There were no comments.**

## **SCHOOL DEPARTMENT - \$20,886,800**

**School Committee Chairman Robert Lafleur asked the Council to approve the department's request of \$21,688,897. The Administrator's proposed budget is not a feasible number. He stated that last year the Council verbally agreed to a 4.75 percent school department increase in this year's budget in order to maintain the department's current status. Mr. Lafleur hopes the Council will honor that verbal agreement.**

**Mr. Leclerc asked if the \$21,000,000 reflects any changes in staffing, salaries, modified block scheduling, etc.**

**Mr. Lafleur stated contract negotiations are ongoing and the union is very well aware of the financial problems of the town and state.**

**Mr. Raymond Leclaire wondered why no one questioned the cost of health care for the school department employees.**

**Mr. Lafleur responded that the overall cost was reduced by over \$500,000 by collaborating with municipal offices for health care services.**

**Mr. Gary Ezovski stated he did not see an explanation for the \$800,000 reduction in the Administrator's proposal.**

**Mrs. Hamilton said it is the position of the town to level fund the**

**school department. If the town accepts the request for \$21,688,897, it will be over the cap.**

#### **GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS - \$44,150**

**Dr. Benoit has received several calls regarding Meals on Wheels and would like to restore \$1,000 for a total of \$5,000.**

**June 23, 2009**

**Ms. Michelle Taylor asked the Council to restore \$1,000 to the Northern Rhode Island Mental Health Center as they are serving North Smithfield clients who have no insurance.**

**Mrs. Tracey Nangle was disturbed at the lack of documentation provided for the budget and very concerned that the town has been without a finance director for months.**

**Mr. Leclerc strongly urged Mrs. Hamilton to bring someone in to review and reconcile this budget as we are so close to the deadline.**

#### **SEWER BUDGET**

**The Administration request for 09/10 is \$1,127,051.**

**Sewer Commission Chairwoman Linda-Jean Briggs commented that this figure does not include \$36,000 for a Project Manager. The**

correct number would be \$1,163,052. This would equate to a user rate of \$383.72.

Mr. Leclerc added that the request for Debt Service/Interest is \$146,169 and for Debt Service/Principal is \$456,493.

Chief Reynolds questioned if any capital requests were being considered and was told there were not.

Mr. Ted Przybyla explained that the Council was within its rights to level fund the School Department and it would be up to the School Department to work the numbers. It could also mean the School Department could proceed with litigation based upon the Caruolo Act.

MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk

**SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**JUNE 23, 2009**

**NS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The meeting began at 10:17 P.M. The prayer and the pledge to the flag were waived. Council members present were Dr. Benoit, Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Zwolenski. Mr. Lovett was unable to attend due to a business commitment. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.

**SECONDHAND DEALER'S LICENSE – C. KEENE D/B/A KRAZY DAISY**  
**MOTION** by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve this license.

**PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACTING AUDIT/ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY GRANTS**

School Committee member Paul Vadenais explained that the School Department has entered into a contract with Johnson Control. If the town joins with the School Department, more money may become available. There are no out of pocket costs if the town opts to move forward and then the initial expense would be incorporated into the bond.

**MOTION** by Dr. Benoit and seconded by Mr. Biron that the town consider going forward with the performance-based contracting energy audit for municipal buildings with Johnson Controls.

Dr. Benoit amended his motion and Mr. Biron amended his second to include that the Town Solicitor will review the contract prior to signing.

**Roll call: Dr. Benoit – yes; Mr. Biron – yes; Mr. Leclerc – yes; and Mr. Zwolenski – yes.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Dr. Benoit and Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to enter into executive session at 10:27 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to  
June 23, 2009**

**collective bargaining or litigation to discuss contract negotiations between the Town of North Smithfield and International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local Number 410.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to come out of executive session at 11:29 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 11:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk**