

**SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**JUNE 4, 2012**

**KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Disclaimer**

**It is the Board's understanding that this meeting is being videotaped for future broadcast on cable television. Please be advised that this video taping is being done by private citizens. It is not being done on behalf of the Town of North Smithfield, nor is the Town of North Smithfield in any way sponsoring or affiliated with it. It is not a public record. The Town of North Smithfield especially disclaims any liability for the contents or the accuracy thereof. Any video tape of this meeting or any other use of said video tape or other recording and the contents thereof are solely the responsibility of the parties doing this video taping.**

**The meeting began at 7:02 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mr. McGee, Mr. Yazbak, Mr. Zwolenski and Mrs. Charest. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.**

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**RESOLUTION RE: GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATION**

**Representatives from the Governor's office were present to ask the Council to pass this resolution in support of the Governor's municipal package. The resolution references seven bills that would address fiscal concerns that have been raised by municipal leaders.**

**Upon review of the seven bills, Mr. Yazbak found that five of them do not apply to North Smithfield and in his opinion North Smithfield has never gotten its fair share of aid to education. While the Town of North Smithfield was receiving considerably less, the municipal leaders were making hard decisions. So although Mr. Yazbak is sorry for those communities that are distressed, he cannot support this resolution.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski and seconded by Ms. Alves to adopt the Governor's resolution as a resolution of the Town of North Smithfield.**

**Roll call: Ms. Alves - yes; Mr. McGee – no; Mr. Yazbak – no; Mr. Zwolenski – yes; and Mrs. Charest – no. The motion failed 3 to 2.**

**RESIGNATION FROM ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - BRENNAN**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept the resignation of Dr. James Brennan with regret and to have the Clerk send a letter of appreciation.**

**APPOINTMENT TO ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – MORIN**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to appoint Richard Morin of 86 Log Road. This term expires December 1, 2012.**

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR SECONDHAND DEALER'S LICENSE – B & M BUSINESS ENT. INC. D/B/A 1800GOTJUNK?**

**MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to schedule the public hearing date for July 16, 2012.**

**OUTDOOR SOUND SYSTEM PERMIT – J. FLAHERTY**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak and Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve an outdoor sound system permit for Mr. John Flaherty of 10 Green Street for June 16, 2012 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**VICTUALING AND HOLIDAY SALES LICENSES – SUBWAY #33289**

**MOTIN by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve victualing and holiday sales licenses as presented for Subway #33289 located at 99 Eddie Dowling Highway and operated by Banai Brothers of North Smithfield LLC.**

**AGREEMENT WITH RI DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS**

**As explained by Ms. Hamilton, this agreement would allow the police department to conduct compliance checks on behalf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to enforce the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve this agreement.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the document.**

**AWARD OF BID RE: CONSTRUCTION AT SEWER BUILDING**

**MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to award the bid for a construction and installation contract for the Water and Sewer Department's facility located at 161 Main Street to Allard Construction in the amount of \$12,175.00 based upon the assurances that this went through the budgetary process. This contract is for sewer connection of the facility using 600 feet of 1½" piping and an E-One grinder pump.**

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## **COMPUTERS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Mr. Silvia stated the information was not received in time and he asked that it be continued to the next meeting.**

**MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to continue this matter to June 18, 2012.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2012/2013 BUDGET**

**Slide presentations were made by Town Administrator Paulette Hamilton, Finance Director Brian Silvia and Superintendent of Schools Stephen Lindberg.**

**Mr. Michael Rapko of 25 Old Greenville Road felt the School Department's presentation was one of the best he has seen but he asked if individual salary numbers could be provided in the future. He disagreed with one comment that salaries are contractual and therefore nothing could be done with those figures. Mr. Rapko felt it was up to the School Committee to negotiate proper contracts and to approach the State to make changes in the step increase process. Mr. Rapko was surprised there was only \$100,000 budgeted for technology.**

**Mrs. Charest read the Department request, the Budget Committee recommendation and the Administration's recommendation for each account.**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

**\$11,152 - \$10,950 - \$10,950**

**PROBATE COURT**

**\$8,554 - \$8,554 - \$8,554**

**TOWN SOLICITOR**

**\$360,644 - \$200,644 - \$200,644**

**MUNICIPAL COURT**

**\$29,160 - \$28,860 - \$28,860**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

**\$115,318 - \$106,329 - \$110,079**

**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**\$123,532 - \$123,532 - \$123,532**

**PLANNING DIVISION**

**\$101,618 - \$94,018 - \$101,618**

**BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

**\$17,190 - \$17,190 - \$17,190**

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**\$187,457 - \$153,826 - \$189,720**

**TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

**\$119,398 - \$112,579 - \$119,087**

**TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**

**\$97,454 - \$91,511 - \$91,511**

**BOARD OF TAX REVIEW**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**AUDITS & COMPUTER SERVICES**

**\$119,860 - \$73,560 - \$115,560**

**ZONING BOARD**

**\$5,330 - \$5,330 - \$5,330**

**PERSONNEL BOARD**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**\$1,686 - \$200 - \$1,686**

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**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**\$1,000 - \$1,000 - \$1,000**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**JUVENILE HEARING BOARD**

**\$3,141 - \$3,141 - \$3,141**

**TOWN HALL**

**\$10,700 - \$9,800 - \$10,500**

**PLANT OPERATIONS**

**\$162,500 - \$138,100 - \$159,225**

**PRINTING & ADVERTISING**

**\$17,000 - \$17,000 - \$17,000**

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

**\$321,200 - \$174,000 - \$266,000**

**SCOUTERS HALL**

**\$1,250 - \$1,250 - \$1,250**

**N.S. PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**\$342,924 - \$343,936 - \$343,909**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**\$2,143,703 - \$1,887,535 - \$1,983,890**

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

**\$54,205 - \$53,965 - \$54,265**

**EMA**

**\$14,130 - \$10,880 - \$11,880**

**N.S. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**\$2,446,768 - \$2,381,768 - \$2,381,768**

**HYDRANT RENTAL**

**\$45,000 - \$45,000 - \$45,000**

**INSPECTION DIVISION**

**\$104,119 - \$102,719 - \$103,719**

**DPW – ADMINISTRATION**

**\$78,998 - \$79,498 - \$79,498**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**\$656,144 - \$647,644 - \$647,644**

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**\$68,531 - \$67,346 - \$67,346**

**TREE WARDEN**

**\$3,730 - \$3,730 - \$3,730**

**STREET LIGHTS**

**\$200,000 - \$200,000 - \$200,000**

**RUBBISH DISPOSAL**

**\$610,974 - \$610,974 - \$610,974**

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**SEALER OF WEIGHTS**

**\$1 - \$1 - \$1**

**DEBT SERVICE – PRINCIPLE**

**\$1,866,505 - \$1,691,505 - \$1,672,368**

**DEBT SERVICE – INTEREST**

**\$1,562,887 - \$1,562,887 - \$1,562,887**

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

**\$1,753,181 - \$1,633,444 - \$1,634,773**

**INSURANCE**

**\$195,000 - \$195,000 - \$175,000**

**SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**\$23,704,471 - \$22,890,598 - \$22,607,598**

**GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS**

**\$45,350 - \$42,500 - \$48,350**

**TOTAL – GENERAL FUND**

**\$37,711,771 - \$35,822,310 - \$35,817,043**

**There was lengthy discussion regarding the reduction of a clerk's position in the finance department.**

**Mr. Charles Ryan, Executive Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Association Inc., asked the Council to maintain funding of \$5,000 for R.S.V.P. under Grants and Contributions.**

**Conservation Commission Chairman Paul Soares noted there is quite a discrepancy between the Budget Committee's recommendation and the Administration's recommendation for the Conservation Commission. He commented that there are no DEM grants available this year and the commission is totally dependent upon the town for maintenance of the Mendon Road park.**

**Town Planner Robert Ericson spoke about the \$4 million dollars invested in energy conservation at no cost to the taxpayers. He noted there are still other projects that need to be done; however, the Budget Committee's recommendation for a part of plant operations is less than the amount the town will be saving.**

**Mr. Ericson spoke about the reduction of education funding. There are organizations that require attendance at workshops, such as DEM, and there now is no money to do that. The Town will be ineligible for some grants.**

**Mr. Ericson was at a loss as to why advertising costs for his department was not in his budget but in the contingency fund.**

**Mr. Ericson stated one of the Finance Department positions has been singled out for the last two years. Last year the Town Council tried to make this a one-half union position and one-half non-union position which created an impossible situation. This person will be taking on the added duties of energy accounting for the town and is definitely**

**needed in the finance department.**

**While gathering information on the number of employees, Mr. Yazbak believed that the offices upstairs at Town Hall were overstaffed by one-half person in the finance department and one-half person in the Administrator's department. He felt last year was an opportune time to combine positions into one because there was a vacancy and that recommendation was made. Mr. Yazbak suggested that, instead of threatening lawsuits, the administration come back to the Council with a plan to reduce the expenses. If that can be done, Mr. Yazbak was sure the Council would look favorably upon it.**

**Finance Director Brian Silvia stated this budget proposal was the administration's plan.**

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**Mrs. Charest wanted to clarify that the Council is not singling out any one person, it is staffing that is under consideration.**

**Mr. Rapko asked the Council to give consideration to the Conservation Commission's request for funding.**

**Budget Committee Chairman Paul Vadenais responded to comments about reduction in education/training funding. The Budget**

**Committee felt the town should not be paying for continuing education for its employees if a certain certification is required to keep that job. It should be the employee's responsibility. In the past the town has paid for employees to get their education and some of those employees no longer provide service to the town.**

**In regards to the energy savings, the Budget Committee based its reduction upon comments made by Mr. Ericson that the Johnson Control project was going to save the town \$29,000 in energy costs. The \$29,000 is guaranteed savings and the committee was never told it was going to be reinvested.**

**On the position in the finance department, Mr. Vadenais stated the Budget Committee was never given a job description as to what the job entails.**

**Mr. Silvia responded that the job description was asked for last year and was provided. It was not asked for this year.**

**Mr. Ericson commented that the \$29,000 was not the number that applied to the town municipal buildings. That project, for \$421,000, included the two fire stations and the library. They helped the town get the grant by scoring points as a sub-state entity serving more than one community. If you take that out and if you take out the actual energy costs vs. maintenance costs and other variables, it turns out to be \$15,000 to \$15,500 that those buildings are actually**

**saving. Therefore the number that was produced in that budget is lower than the actual savings. So instead of having money to reinvest, what do you do -- turn off the heat in December?**

**MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:02 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk**