



Town of Griswold
**Board of Finance
Special Joint Meeting with the
Board of Education
March 30, 2009
7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**



MINUTES

1. **Roll Call/Call to Order:** S. Merchant called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Members Present:

Steve Merchant, Sr. – Chairman
Joe Przylucki, Jr. – Vice Chairman
Peter Dorff
Alan Geer – arrived at 7:40 pm
Gail Rooke-Norman
Daniel Webster
John Wolkowski

Also Present:

The Griswold Board of Education: Elizabeth Dorff, Stuart Norman, Jr., Kimberly Brunelle, Frank Everett, Ken Fitzgerald, Theresa Madonna and Laurie Sorder
Griswold Superintendent of Schools Ania Czajkowski
Danielle Batchelder, School Business Manager
Kathy Maxwell, Director of Finance
Keleigh Baretincic, Recording Secretary
Approximately 10 interested townspeople

2. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on the proposed 2009-2010 Board of Education Fiscal Year Budget:**

- The Griswold Board of Education (BOE) and the Griswold Board of Finance (BOF) introduced themselves.
- The BOE presented their proposed FY 2009-2010 budget and reviewed their mission statement and goals. The BOE reviewed their budget proposal page by page, answering questions for the BOF throughout the presentation.
- The only Capital Improvements in the budget are items under \$10,000.00
- The BOF discussed with the BOE, the process of determining the true cost of the use of facilities as well as food service/cafeteria costs, tuition costs and special education costs for tuition students. The BOE will look into tuition student scores prior to their 8th grade year to determine if they had been receiving special educational services through their home town school systems. It was also noted that statically children accepting free and reduced lunches tend to require a higher percentage of special education services. Griswold has a high percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunches.

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- The BOE has not to date had any formal discussions with its unions regarding the possibility of concessions. The BOF asked the BOE to formally ask all of their union and non union employees to freeze their wages at the current years budgeted levels. The BOE will be meeting tomorrow with its faculty and staff.
- S. Merchant noted that the BOF is looking to set a mil rate with a 0% increase. The BOF hopes to achieve this goal cooperatively with the unions.
- K. Maxwell that to fund the BOE budget at the rate it is currently funded, it would be about a .04% increase in the mil rate. With the additional \$200,000.00 in tuition expected (as noted to be expected by the Superintendent), the increase would be negligible.
- The legislative aid shortfall could be worse than anticipated and Griswold could be losing more Educational Cost Sharing funds than it currently anticipates.
- The new school building bonds will be coming due.
- The BOF discussed tuition costs and returning to the basic foundation courses in education.
- K. Maxwell urged the BOF to send the BOE budget to the voters with an increase, since the Town voted to build the new schools and there is a higher cost associated with such a project.
- The BOE thanked the BOF.

3. Old Business

- a. **Executive Session to discuss Bookkeeper raise:** **MOTION:** J. Przulucki motioned and was seconded by D. Webster to rescind all matters discussed at the executive session held at the March 23, 2009 Special Board of Finance Meeting. There was discussion about executive session protocol and expectation. There was no further discussion. All in favor; **motion carried.** **MOTION:** J. Przulucki motioned and was seconded by G. Rooke-Norman to table this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting. There was no discussion. All in favor; **motion carried.** S. Merchant reiterated that nothing in executive session should be discussed outside of the session for any reason.
4. **Adjournment:** **MOTION:** J. Przulucki motioned and was seconded by G. Rooke-Norman to adjourn. There was no discussion. All in favor; **motion carried.** S. Merchant adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keleigh Baretincic
Recording Secretary