

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP
May 12, 2009**

On April 29, 2009 the School Board and the Town Council met to discuss data related to the current status of the 2009-2010 school budget and a strategy to address budget concerns which included a list of some dire school infrastructure needs. At that time the School Board itself had not had the opportunity to weigh in on what items on the extensive list would they consider had top priority and suggested funding options as it involved the remaining special reserve account – Teachers Summer Salary School Booked – Account Number 10012-20120 in the amount of \$353,979.71.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. The following were in attendance:

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**Chair Sharri MacDonald
 Councilor Robin Dayton
 Councilor Mike Tousignant
 Councilor Laura Bolduc
 Councilor Shawn O’Neill
 Town Manager Stephen Guntz
 Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid
 Superintendent of Schools Jack Turcotte
 School Chair Deborah Evans
 School Vice Chair Kay Dutton
 School Board Member Gary Curtis
 School Board Member Jim Boisvert
 School Finance Director Dick Descoteaux**

The following list was presented to the Town Council by the School Board:

Item 1 -	Bleacher Replacement	\$ 169,000
Item 2 -	Loranger Roof (2)	100,000
Item 3 -	A/C – various locations	4,000
Item 4 -	Grounds equipment	11,000
Item 5 -	Bleachers/Stage Floor	5,700
Item 6 -	Tennis Courts Repair	9,405
	High School	\$4,100
	Loranger	2,657
	Town	2,648
Item 7 -	Tennis Courts Replacement	95,000
Item 8 -	Track Repair	21,000
	Total	\$ 415,105
	Less \$640 Savings on Courts	640
	Total	\$ 414,465

After further discussion the School Board had listed their list of priorities:

Item 2 -	Loranger Roof (2)	100,000
Item 1 -	Bleacher Replacement	\$ 169,000
Item 3 -	A/C – various locations	4,000
Item 4 -	Grounds equipment	11,000
Item 5 -	Bleachers/Stage Floor	5,700
Item 6 -	Tennis Courts Repair	9,405
	High School	\$4,100
	Loranger	2,657
	Town	2,648
	A Discount of	(640)
Item 8 -	Track Repair	21,000
	Total	\$ 319,465

Since there was \$353,979.71 in the special reserved fund – if the items above were provided, there would still be a balance of \$34,514.71 remaining.

It was decided that Item 7 was not a consideration at this time:

Item 7 -	Tennis Courts Replacement	95,000
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The Council and the School Board continued extensive discussions on whether to do just a portion based on the amount not yet confirmed for the School budget.

Gary Curtis who serves on the Regional School Unit Board gave a synopsis of a possible scenario for the school budget. He thought that a figure of \$751,000 increase is a possibility. Considering the \$200,000 fuel payment made this year for the school by the Town, would reduce the amount to \$551,000. The State mandated change in accounting practices that will cost the RSU about 120,000 and would cost Old Orchard Beach about \$75,000 if it had gone alone. Three new students in Old Orchard Beach will be requiring Special Education tuition in the amount of \$130,000. In addition the regular contractual increase for the teachers, bus drivers, food service, etc., in the amount of over \$360,000.

He compared it to the school budget last year which would have been:

\$751,000 increase
(200,000) fuel
(380,000) contract
(125,000) Special Education
(50,000) Contingency
4,000 Balance

He indicated that although this is not comparing apples to apples, it is a reasonable representation of comparisons between these two budgets.

Other information discussed was that if projects are not funded by the Town it gets funded by the RSU on a shared basis.

In the discussion the question of the safety of the children was a priority. Insurance considerations were also mentioned and the need to address these issues in a timely manner is fundamental.

Discussion of the Tennis Courts Repair took some discussion:

Item 6 -	Tennis Courts Repair	\$9,405 – \$640
	High School	\$4,100
	Loranger	2,657
	Town	2,648
	Discount	(640)

Proposals were received from Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing for each of the Courts. This work would include cleaning and filling structural cracks with concrete fortified with Acrylic Binder and cleaning the entire surface areas with compressed air and filling the hairline cracks with rubberized liquid crack filler. The suggestion was also made that the courts at Memorial Park need to be replaced as the ultimate goal. If the High School gains support for new courts the Town might join with them to get a reduced construction cost for them both being replaced at the same time. The second option that was presented was to crack seal the one court at a cost of approximately \$2,600 and close the second court. If both courts are open then the additional cost would be approximately \$3,000. The second court needs a four foot by eight foot repair at a minimum.

There was a variety of opinions expressed whether all the items, except the replacement of the tennis courts, should be completed now but there were others who felt that we should wait until the firm number of the School budget is given to us. It was suggested and agreed to that on the May 19, 2009 Town Council agenda the following agenda item should appear:

Discussion with Action: Approve the Contract with Lincoln/Haney Engineering Associates, Inc. for an engineering study of the roofing project at Loranger Middle School in the amount of \$14,500 from Account Number 10012-20120 – Teachers Summer Salary – School Booked, with a balance of \$353,979.71.

The School Board was told that the Council would consider later in the budget process the completion of the other remaining items once the budget is revisited and a final determination of the school budget total and revenue totals.

It was the general consensus of all those in attendance that the desire for the safety of our children but at the same an expression of concern for the ability of taxpayers to fund this budget was a consideration as well.

The Chair announced that the need to go into another session on the regular town budget would be postponed until another night.

The School Board and Town Council Workshop ended at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of five (4) Pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Workshop held on May 12 2009.

V. Louise Reid