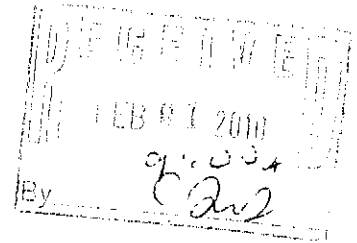


**Board of Finance
Town of Thomaston
Special Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Lena Morton Gallery**



Members Presents: Steven Turner, Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan, David Colavecchio, Frank Treglia, Marie Galbraith

Chairman David Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman David Colavecchio discussed the issues and questions that were raised at the January 14, Opera House Commission (TOHC) and their motion that asked the Board of Finance to re-look at the results of the Opera House audit and determine if more steps should be taken.

The three main issues that were raised during the Opera House Commission meeting were as follows:

1. Discrepancies in the scholarship fund
2. The amount of commissions incorrectly paid to Former Ex. Director
3. Use of personal credit card use and bypassing of town acctg. system

In regards to the scholarship fund, there are discrepancies in the amount of money paid to recipients and the approval of these scholarships in commission minutes. Aaron Thibault agreed to look for all minutes from 2007-2009 for approval of all scholarships. Sue Smith can get copies of cashed checks from the scholarships. In addition, there will be steps taken to separate scholarship funds so they can be more accurately record kept. No action taken by the Board of Finance.

There was much discussion regarding the use of a personal credit card by former Opera House employees and the lack of documentation for purchases, late payment fees, and payments that bypassed all of the town's accounting system. A motion was made by Kristin seconded by Marie to authorize Dave to write a letter to the Executive Director requesting all copies of the personal credit card statements so that further review can be completed, if necessary. Motion carries 5-0.

There was also a discussion of whether the discrepancies between what the Opera House commission thought they were paying commissions for and for what was actually paid warranted further investigation. There are currently practices in place that will not allow this to happen again and because the discrepancy amounted to approximately 1800.00, no board took did not take any action on this issue. There was general consensus that the amount was "insignificant" compared to the amount it would take to litigate.

David shared legal opinions from the Town's attorney and letters from the Auditor. In these letters, Dave was asking whether a further audit or a forensic audit might be needed and the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Finance. The sense from the letter from the auditor was that

unless additional information and documentation there was nothing left to audit. At this time, the board took no action on another audit or pursuing a forensic audit.

Aaron Thibault read the motion from the January 14, 2010 Opera House commission requesting the Board of Finance to take more action.

Public Comment:

Frank Meaney- Disagrees with Board of Finance, Auditor and Town Attny and believes a forensic audit is needed and at any cost. Mentioned he would file criminal charges as a taxpayer on Friday.

Julie Ann Torrence-Member of Opera House Commission. Re-explained why the Opera House requested us to look into this further and cited \$3000.00 in late payment fees on credit card as an example- Fees that would not have been paid if town accounting system had been used.

JulieAnn Ingham-Had questions regarding the missing credit card receipts.

Jeff Dunn- Defended his position on the audit, stating that no commissioner ever reached out to discuss audit findings with him. Said that all credit card receipts were handed over.

Barbara Piscopo- Discussed that the Opera House audit sub-committee was in the process of implementing all recommendations from the audit report.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Frank to adjourn meeting at 8:09 pm. Motion carries 5-0.

Submitted by,
Kristin Mosimann O'Sullivan