

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. A(9)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2009

TITLE: Request to Reschedule the Continuation of the Public Hearing on an Ordinance Limiting Campaign Contributions

DEPARTMENT: Town Attorney	PUBLIC HEARING: Yes
ATTACHMENTS: A: Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Brough 929-3905

PURPOSE

The Board is requested to consider rescheduling the continuation of the public hearing on an ordinance establishing a \$250 limit on campaign contributions to candidates for town elected offices. The town staff recommends that this public hearing be continued to March 3, 2009. The town staff will re-advertise this public hearing.

INFORMATION

As set forth more fully in the September 22, 2008 memo from the town attorney, in July of this past year the General Assembly enacted an amendment to the town's charter that authorizes the Board to establish limits on the amount of money that any individual or campaign committee may contribute to any candidate for an elected town office. The general law sets this limit at \$4,000, but the charter amendment allows the Board to adopt an ordinance dropping this limit to not less than \$250.

At its meeting on October 21, 2008, the Board directed the town attorney to draft an ordinance that implements this authority and that sets the contribution limit at \$250. The ordinance attached as Attachment B was drafted in response to this request. Note that the draft has a blank that must be filled in to establish the amount of civil penalty that will be imposed for violations of this ordinance.

The Board of Aldermen at its meeting on January 27, 2009 voted to continue this public hearing to February 24, 2009, but due to the fact that additional public hearings were continued to that same meeting, it is being recommended that this particular public hearing be continued to March 3, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution continuing the public hearing on this matter to March 3, 2009 and directing the town staff to re-advertise this public hearing.