

Approved 4-22-15

**BOARD OF FINANCE
Minutes (Public Hearing)
April 8, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Vice-Chairman D. Norell.
Members present: R. Sulich, E. Chalfant, R. Droesch, D. Norell, P. Tracey, H. Tuttle
Members absent: None
Alternates present: L. Pecoraro, S. Pelletier
Alternates absent: A. Fritzche

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED GENERAL GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGETS

General Government Budget: R. Piper presented the General Government budget by blocks. (See minutes from 3-11-15 BOF meeting) R. Piper indicated the bottom line on this budget is a 3.72% increase or a .3 mill increase.

S. Pelletier asked what was planned for the BOS PRE funds and wants an accounting for the townspeople. R. Piper stated this had been discussed previously and that use of the funds are decided by the entire Board of Selectmen and not just one individual. He also stated a line had been created in order to rollover any fund left at the end of a fiscal year, to be used for a future year.

R. Piper noted that each department had an increase in data expenses, which covers IT support, software, etc.

Unemployment expenses have been increased due to those drawing unemployment and obtaining extension past the initial 26 weeks allowed.

H. Tuttle asked if the Town had shopped around for insurance rates and R. Piper indicated they had.

R. Sulich suggested dropping the P&Z attorney fees (line #903) since there is no current litigation.

R. Sulich stated that all boards and committees chairpeople, as well as department heads should be in attendance at budget hearings if their proposed budgets include any increase. E. Chalfant said that they are required to be at any meetings involving additional appropriations. R. Sulich wants to expand that rule to all increases.

There was a question on the expense for NECOGG, NEDDH, and NECASA. R. Piper pointed out that this is based on per capita. R. Sulich would like more information on what services are included for each of these.

R. Piper announced that FEMA had declared Windham County as one of the disaster counties for the January snowstorm. Funds should be realized in about a year.

R. Sulich noted that there was an increase in the cost for bulk waste and asked if the committee had a report yet. R. Veach, who is on the committee, said that they would be making

recommendations to the Board of Selectmen soon. He stated that enforcement has been an issue and some of the possibilities being discussed are a yearly color change to the stickers; requirement of a building permit for construction waste; and possible constable observation to deter problems.

K. Sulich noted that EMS staffing is now \$86,000 and PRE funds are \$84,000. She asked if any amount over budget could be taken from the PRE funds for the library or recreation and not the taxpayers. R. Piper said it could not due to the contract with PRE. K. Sulich asked what the library does with their funds from PRE. R. Piper said they had not yet spent any funds and are looking to expand the library. S. Pelletier suggested that pressure can be put on the library expense lines in order to utilize those funds available.

Board of Education: Superintendent L. Knapton gave a short presentation. (See minutes from 3-24-15 BOF meeting).

There was discussion on the proposal for 1% of any expended funds to go into a special fund for use by the schools, pursuant to the statutes. R. Sulich said the excess could go to the schools' portion of the C.I.P. items. S. Pelletier wants to make sure there is an accounting for the funds. R. Drosch pointed out that the Board of Finance would have to approve any expenditure.

C.I.P. Budget: First Selectman R. Piper was present to give the presentation of the CIP budget, however, Chairman R. Sulich requested that the CIP Committee meet prior to the next Board of Finance meeting, and be prepared to present documentation for each increase. R. Sulich stated that the CIP budget has been mis-managed for a long time and needs better management. He would like the CIP chairman to be in attendance at budget hearings. He also stated that he is in the process of drafting by-laws for the CIP Committee.

E. Grab asked if the CIP budget was being considered at this meeting.

R. Sulich replied that it was a "wish list" and needed modifications.

Superintendent L. Knapton indicated the school had lowered the education portion to \$280,000.00 at their 4-7-15 Board of Education meeting.

D. Norell stated that the Public Works portion's past practice is not been based on real need, but on a whim.

L. Pecoraro asked if the public budget meeting would be kept open for the CIP budget.

R. Sulich stated that the budgets still have to go before a Town meeting and could be adjusted.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by D. Norell at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn. Second by P. Tracey.

Vote: 6-0-0

Vote: R. Drosch / R. Sulich / E. Chalfant / D. Norell / P. Tracey / H. Tuttle
Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Joy A. Bissonnette
Recording Secretary