

Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6:00pm
Meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19

1- Call to Order: Board of Finance Chairman Steve Ezzes called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Also present were BOF members: Dick Bochinski, Allen Grauberd, Jeff Farr, Greg Murphy, Amy Gare and Rone Baldwin. First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, BOE Chairman Steve Ezzes. BOE Finance Director Phil Cross, Superintendent Dr. Bill McKersie, Finance Director Rick Darling and Weston Residents

2- Discussion/decision regarding FY 2020/21 Town and Board of Education Operating Budgets and Capital Budgets.

Chairman Ezzes explained the Governor's executive order, the Public Hearing and implications if they were to put off voting on the budget.

Mr. Pesco and Mr. Cross addressed the following questions that the BOF had about the budget. Mr. Cross reviewed savings incurred due to the school closings including transportation, supplies, SPED etc. Cleaning services has been switched to summer cleaning stage. Discussions were had about best practices for where to put the savings incurred from COVID 19 closings. Mr. Cross spoke about their current deficit and budget freeze, pre-COVID

First Selectman Spaulding added the town has been staying in function, employees all working remotely. DPW still functioning, library running virtual programming. Mr. Darling spoke about other savings, which are not all COVID related, which includes snow removal costs. Police overtime was discussed due to officers sick with COVID

The BOF discussed solutions and how to get to a flat Mill rate. Appropriate use of the General Fund balance was also discussed.

Town Capital budget was discussed; Mr. Ezzes asked what could be reduced? Mr. Luiz said we could delay first installment of Michaels Way Bridge and 1st installment of FD equipment costs. The Mason Dump truck for DPW and Onion Barn improvements were also mentioned as possible items to consider.

At 7:30pm First Selectman Chris Spaulding and Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz left the meeting.

BOF continued discussion regarding how to reduce mill rate and how it would affect next year's budget. Mr. Pesco and Dr. McKersie discussed possible scenarios for the Fall and added they are still waiting for guidance from the state. Costs were discussed for distance learning.

Mr. Farr, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Grauberd and Chairman Ezzes all support a 0% mill rate increase with varying proposals. Ms. Gare does not support cuts, especially during this pandemic.

It was agreed to schedule additional BOF meetings on May 21st to review plans to get to 0% increase and then on June 1st to finalize the budget.

2-Discussion/decision regarding approval of minutes from the April 7th meeting – Mr. Murphy asked for the minutes need to be amended as he proposed a flat budget and that was not in the minutes. Mr. Bochinski also asked for a revision to Mike Rizzo’s title. With those two changes, Mr. Murphy moved to approve the minutes from the April 7th meeting. Mr. Bochinski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3- Adjourn: Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Mr Farr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: June 11, 2020