

**BOARD of FINANCE
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2019, 7:30 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Chairman Ezzes called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mr. Ezzes was joined by fellow board members Rone Baldwin, Dick Bochinski, Allan Grauberd, Melissa Koller, Greg Murphy and Jeff Farr. Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling, First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Police Chief Ed Henion, Captain Matt Brodacki as well as several town department heads and members of the public.

Discussion/Decision regarding a request from the Police Department to purchase two new police vehicles in the amount of \$45,000 each. One vehicle to be funded from the Vehicle Sinking Fund in the Capital Budget, and the other to be funded from the Police Special Duty fund.

Chief Henion described the request. The department needs two new vehicles. Available balances in both the Police Special Duty fund and the Capital Vehicle Sinking fund were discussed. \$49,000 is available in the Special Duty fund and about \$190,000 in Capital.

Ms. Koller made a motion to approve the purchase of one vehicle from the Vehicle Sinking fund for \$45,000, and Mr. Bochinski seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the purchase of one vehicle from the Police Special Duty fund, and Mr. Grauberd seconded. Approved unanimously.

Board of Finance reviews Board of Selectmen budget request.

Dr. Spaulding made a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding the budget as well as other indicators. There was discussion regarding the current year forecast as well as the implications to the budget due to changes in MERS pension funding assumptions. Mr. Baldwin questioned the year to year comparison of the capital budget since the prior year included significant funding from special funds. Dr. Spaulding pointed out that two historical slides for capital are included in the presentation with one reflecting the gross budget and one reflecting the net budget after accounting for offsets. Mr. Grauberd also asked to check the mill rate increase for the current year which did not appear to be accurate.

The capital budget was discussed first. Mr. Ezzes asked if maintenance expenses are tracked for every DPW vehicle. This will need to be addressed going forward by the new DPW Director. Mr. Baldwin questioned why certain new requests are in the capital budget that were not included in the multi-year spreadsheet last year. There was additional discussion on these issues. Mr. Bochinski expressed concern about the timing of the capital requests considering revaluation and the state budget. The possibility of lease purchasing was also brought up.

Under the Administration section, the wage contingency amount was discussed.

Under General Administration, pension, health insurance and an increase in contractual services was discussed.

Savings from virtual net metering are included in three sections of the budget.

Dr. Spaulding and Mr. Luiz pointed out certain issues or changes as the review moved along.

Police overtime was discussed.

Under DPW, discussion centered around paving expenses and how the amount requested for next year was derived. DPW Director Lou Martirano discussed his review of the condition of the roads and how this impacted his request.

The proposal to reduce the hours of the Transfer Station operation was discussed in length.

Under Recreation and Parks, a proposal is made to reinstitute a modest annual fee for Bisceglie pond.

A request was made to get the coupon rates for the outstanding bond principal payments.

The meeting concluded with discussion regarding whether or not there are any possible areas in the town budget that could be reduced.

Mr. Baldwin also questioned certain revenue items and whether or not we can increase those assumptions in the budget for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.