

**BOARD of FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Chairman Ezzes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Ezzes was joined by fellow board members Rone Baldwin, Dick Bochinski, Greg Murphy and Jeff Farr (Melissa Koller and Allan Grauberd arrived prior to the public portion of the meeting). Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling, First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Board of Education Chairperson Gina Albert, Superintendent William McKersie, BOE Finance Director Rich Rudl as well as several town officials and members of the public.

Executive Session to discuss School Security.

Mr. Bochinski made a motion for the Board of Finance to enter Executive Session and Mr. Baldwin seconded.

Discussion/decision regarding Board of Selectmen operating budget for 2019-20.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:32. Ms. Koller and Mr. Grauberd had joined the meeting by this time. Mr. Ezzes opened up with some commentary about some of the issues currently receiving attention regarding the state budget. The Board began its discussion regarding revenue. A \$100,000 increase can be made for investment income. There was also discussion regarding state revenue. Considering the state's financial status, ECS revenue assumptions for next year would stay at zero. Discussion then moved over to the capital budget. The DPW request for a \$250k tri-axle truck was discussed at length. It was ultimately decided to fund this purchase over a four year period, meaning the capital budget for next year could be reduced by \$187,500. Additional discussion involved the request for new tractor mowers over the next three years, including their age and condition. Requested funds were not revised for the mowers.

For the Board of Selectmen operating budget, the departmental sections were read off one by one. There was discussion involving police overtime including the current year forecast. Other questions were fielded for certain sections in the budget. After an initial motion by Mr. Bochinski to recommend the BOS proposed Town operating budget, Ms. Koller made a motion to reduce the amount budgeted for Police Overtime by \$15,000 and Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion passed 4-3 with Ms. Koller, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Farr and Mr. Grauberd voting for, and Mr. Ezzes, Mr. Bochinski and Mr. Baldwin against.

Mr. Ezzes made a motion to approve a total Board of Selectmen operating budget in the amount of \$13,452,745 and Ms. Koller seconded. Approved unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Board of Selectmen capital budget for 2019-20.

Further discussion focused on the DPW mowers request. Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve a Town capital budget of \$470,300, and Mr. Grauberd seconded.

Discussion/Decision regarding the Board of Education operating budget for FY20.

Mr. Bochinski questioned the Board of Education regarding their estimate for CMERS expenses next year. Mr. Rudl stated that they would be able to cover the estimated additional \$107,000 within their budget for next year. Mr. Baldwin suggested starting with a reduction of \$300,000 from the BOE request. Mr. Bochinski made a motion to reduce the request by \$393,000 to \$53,073,710 and Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion approved 6-1, with Ms. Koller opposing.

Discussion/Decision regarding the Board of Education Capital Budget for FY20

For the Board of Education Capital Budget, Mr. Ezzes began the discussion by inquiring about the Revson baseball field and related septic issues. Dr. McKersie explained the situation.

It was noted that the \$28,000 request for the Hurlbutt Gym Floor can be removed. Further discussion centered on the boilers and security capital requests, as well as whether or not some modest cuts to certain projects could be made. The possibility of lease purchasing the security equipment was discussed. Ms. Koller questioned the need for the Security capital funding, and then made a motion to increase the previously approved BOE operating budget amount by \$200k in lieu of removing the School Security Initiatives project for \$321,629, and Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion failed 3-4 with Ms. Koller, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Farr in favor, and Mr. Ezzes, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Bochinski and Mr. Grauberd against.

Mr. Ezzes moved to reduce the BOE capital request by \$28,000, and Mr. Baldwin seconded. Approved unanimously. Further discussion centered on the boiler requests and what would happen if any of them failed.

Mr. Bochinski made a motion to approve a Board of Education capital budget in the amount of \$1,356,129, and Mr. Grauberd seconded. Approved 6-1 with Mr. Farr voting against.

Discussion/decision regarding debt and interest budget for FY 2019-20

Mr. Murphy asked if there was an opportunity to refund any outstanding debt. Mr. Darling said that we had just taken a look at a possible refunding opportunity through the Town's financial advisor. Potential savings are slightly less than nominal at present, but as certain maturities get closer to the call date, the savings should improve. He would continue to monitor this. Ms. Koller moved the debt service budget in the amount of \$5,786,554, and Mr. Baldwin seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Grauberd moved a total budget to be sent to the annual Town budget meeting in the amount of \$73,599,438, and Ms. Koller seconded. Approved 6-1 with Mr. Farr voting against.

Discussion/decision regarding approval of the March 4th and March 6th meeting minutes

Mr. Bochinski made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings and Mr. Baldwin seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.