

**BOARD of FINANCE
MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2018, 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, Jerry Sargent, Bob Ferguson, Allan Grauberd and Melissa Koller (7:35). First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling, Tax Collector Cathy McLellan, Police Chief Ed Henion, Police Captain Matt Brodacki, Police Commissioners Bill Brady and Beth Gralnick, School Superintendent Dr. William McKersie, School Director of Finance Rich Rudl were also present.

Discussion/decision regarding the Tax Collector's proposed transfer to Suspense list:

Ms. McLellan explained why the suspense list is prepared annually. It's required by state statute, and the auditors also confirm that is done annually. The list contains just motor vehicle and personal property accounts. Transferring these accounts to suspense does not mean that the accounts are written off, as collection efforts will continue. Some discussion took place. Mr. Grauberd inquired as to whether or not liens could be placed on personal property. Ms. McLellan mentioned that normally liens are only placed on delinquent real estate accounts, and liens may not be as effective means of collection on personal property. However, she will look into this question further. Ms. McLellan mentioned that Board approval was not required for this item.

Discussion regarding the Board of Education financial update:

Mr. Rudl presented the Board of Education's financial status for FY 2017-18. He mentioned that the current forecast which includes the \$1 million previously approved supplemental for special education costs reflects the Board coming in right around the final revised budget. The internal services fund is projected to have a fund balance of 19%.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request from the Board of Education in the amount of \$15,978 for the BOE's portion of shared IT services:

Note – this item was taken up jointly with item 4: Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request from the Board of Education in the amount of \$35,000 for the Town portion of shared IT services.

Mr. Sargent noted that he has been in favor of moving in this direction insofar as maintaining shared service arrangements whenever possible. Mr. Baldwin asked how this request relates to the \$26k supplemental appropriation from March. Mr. Spaulding and Mr. Luiz explained, including the fact that the prior supplemental included new server costs. Mr. Sargent reiterated his prior suggestion that an IT Advisory Committee

should be formed. Mr. Grauberd asked if we would be saving anything by staying with the shared arrangement. Mr. Luiz explained how the numbers for the supplemental requests were derived. There was further discussion. Mr. Sargent mentioned the prior concerns he had with the prior proposal on going with an outside vendor. Mr. Grauberd questioned the \$35,000 amount for the Town portion of the request. Mr. Rudl explained that, originally, the \$35,000 was included in the BOE budget as an offset for reimbursement of Police tech support services. Instead, that amount now will reflect the Town portion of a newly hired IT employee. Mr. Grauberd requested that the BOE provide the Board of Finance a written confirmation that the BOE will be unable to achieve any savings reduction to the \$35,000 request by staying with the shared arrangement.

Mr. Sargent moved both supplemental appropriation requests, and Mr. Bochinski seconded. Approved unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request from the Police Commission in the amount of \$120,000 for a new School Resources Officer:

Note – this item was taken up jointly with Item 6: Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request from the Police Commission in the amount of \$38,000 for additional Mile of Safety coverage

Mr. Ezzes began the conversation by stating that, although he supports additional school security coverage, he was disappointed in the process and timing of how this request got to the Board of Finance. Chief Henion presented the request stating that there has been much discussion between his department and the BOE on the issue of school security in recent months, and believes that a well thought out plan is being proposed here. Mr. Bochinski asked if this request would have moved forward irrespective of the two school security guard positions at Hurlbutt. Dr. McKersie affirmed that it still would have.

Mr. Ferguson mentioned that he was against the reduction to the Mile of Safety hours. Captain Brodacki explained the deployment of the MOS officers during the morning and afternoon hours. There was further discussion, including what impact a new SRO might have on reducing department overtime. Mr. Baldwin is concerned with the overall increase in the Police Department budget. Chief Henion mentioned that there were some one-time adjustments in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and would not anticipate similar percentage increases in following years. Mr. Baldwin further questioned how this request might be impacted if the proposed amount were reduced. Chief Henion responded that the overall budget and operations would need to be reassessed.

Ms. Koller was concerned that this request is being considered outside of the town budget process, thereby not allowing for input from the voters. Mr. Ferguson asked why not consider SSO's instead of an SRO which would be less expensive. Dr. McKersie mentioned that current policy does not allow armed personnel on campus unless they are local police officers. Gina Albert described some of the additional services offered by an SRO. There was further discussion on this issue.

Mr. Sargent mentioned that he would like to see the request reduced based on a new position being able to reduce overtime expenses. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to reduce the overall request by \$20,000. Mr. Baldwin also stated that he would prefer to see a portion of the SRO costs included in the BOE budget. After further discussion, the Board decided to table Items 5 and 6 to allow for additional time to consider the request. The motion to reduce the request was thus withdrawn.

Considering the length of the meeting, items 7, 8 and 9 were also tabled until the next meeting

Adjourn: Mr. Baldwin moved and Mr. Bochinski seconded to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. which passed unanimously.

Unapproved