

**BOARD of FINANCE
MEETING MINUTES
July 12, 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, Bob Ferguson, Allan Grauberd and Melissa Koller joined by telephone. First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Finance Director Rick Darling, Police Chief Ed Henion, Police Captain Matt Brodacki, Police Commissioners Bill Brady and Beth Gralnick, Assistant School Superintendent Ken Craw and Board of Education Chairperson Gina Albert also attended. School Superintendent Bill McKersie and Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz joined via telephone.

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

Mr. Darling explained that this item was presented to the Board last month and, upon further review, does need to be approved by the Board of Finance. He also mentioned that there were some questions from the last meeting that the Town is addressing, and we are working toward developing an overall tax delinquent collection policy with legal counsel. Steve asked if the Selectmen had adopted a dollar threshold regarding the upcoming tax sale. Mr. Luiz said they had and the amount was anything over \$50,000 in delinquent taxes and interest.

Mr. Grauberd moved, and Mr. Bochinski seconded. Approved unanimously.

At 7:40, Mr. Grauberd moved to go into executive session in order to discuss school security issues, and Mr. Baldwin seconded. Mr. Spaulding pointed out certain procedures regarding executive sessions. The Board approved unanimously to go into executive session.

At 8:40, Mr. Bochinski moved to come out of executive session and Mr. Ferguson 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 4: Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request from the Police Commission in the amount of \$38,220 for additional Mile of Safety coverage

Mr. Baldwin mentioned that he would prefer to see the request reduced by looking at possible offsets within the departments' budgets. He also desires that the total costs of the SRO be split in some manner between the Town and the Schools. Mr. Bochinski mentioned that there was discussion regarding this issue when the first SRO was hired

and the splitting of costs was voted down. Mr. Ferguson agreed on cost sharing, and it should be addressed in the following budget cycle. Mr. Grauberd would like to reduce the funding request by \$35,000 since he feels the Town is being charged twice by the BOE for Police technology support. Mr. Luiz explained his position and understanding of the costs. Ms. Albert pointed out that Rich Rudl should be present to explain details in the analysis and comment on the proposed reduction to the request. There was discussion regarding the \$35,000 proposed reduction to the amount requested, including what those amounts would become. Mr. Spaulding questioned such a procedure since we would have to approve a second memorandum of understanding with a second SRO being hired.

After some more discussion, Mr. Bochinski moved to approve an amount of \$120,000 for a new SRO, and Mr. Ferguson seconded. Mr. Grauberd also requested a commitment from the Board of Education and Police Department to work on identifying other areas in both respective budgets to find reductions amounting to a total of \$35,000. Mr. Baldwin expressed disappointment that there would be no reduction to the amount requested in this motion. The \$120,000 supplemental appropriation request was approved 4 – 2, with Mr. Ezzes, Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Grauberd in favor, and Mr. Baldwin and Ms. Koller opposed.

Mr. Bochinski moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$38,220 for Mile of Safety coverage, and Mr. Grauberd seconded. This supplemental appropriation request was approved 4 – 2, with Mr. Ezzes, Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Grauberd in favor, and Mr. Baldwin and Ms. Koller opposed.

Discussion regarding the Town's General Fund investment portfolio

Mr. Darling presented information regarding the Town's general fund investments. He noted that rates have been increasing, and expects certain accounts will soon reflect higher rates than presented in the report. For the fixed income portfolios, we are experiencing unrealized losses for the just completed fiscal year. However, since inception of these accounts, they have generated additional investment income for the Town compared to what the Town would have earned if invested in money markets and STIF over that period of time. Mr. Darling also pointed out that the overall maturities of the portfolios are shortening to some extent.

Approval of April 3rd, May 3rd, and May 14th minutes.

Mr. Baldwin moved for the approval of all three sets of minutes, and Mr. Bochinski seconded. Approved unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.