

Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2020 at 6:00pm
Meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19

1- Pledge of allegiance

Chairman Ezzes opened the meeting requesting an opinion of each BOF Member

Jeff Farr: Mr. Farr stated he wants to continue to take reductions from town and school operating budget to get to 0% mill rate increase. He expressed reasons such as decrease in the sales price of homes and unemployment rates. Mr. Farr would also like to remove 3 Capital Budget items; Onion Barn improvements, Michaels Way Bridge and the purchase of a DPW dump truck.

Amy Gare : Ms. Gare referred to the BOF handbook stating their purpose is to represent citizens in budget making process. She referred to emails and participants that supported the budget as is. She supports the budget as presented.

Greg Murphy Mr. Murphy stated he supports a flat budget, making reductions on both the Town and BOE operating budgets. Mr. Murphy supports a 0% increase in mill rate

Alan Grauberd – Mr. Grauberd stated he wants to get to a 0% mill rate increase, taking capital budget reductions, and supplementing the paving budget. He feels this year we should use the general fund so we could keep the budget where it is, stating this would be a one-time use of the General fund due to COVID 19.

Dick Bochinski – Mr. Bochinski stated it's very important to not have a tax increase this year. He would like to both reduce the Town and BOE operating budgets while also using an offset from fund balance of \$353k in order to attain a 0% mill rate increase. Regarding the Capital budget, he supports Michael's Way first payment being postponed, but doesn't want to take anything else out.

Rone Baldwin – Mr. Baldwin supports a flat mill rate given economic challenges and what we are seeing other towns doing. He is not in favor of using money from unassigned fund balance other than the expected surplus from the current year operations. Mr. Baldwin would like to use the surplus, capital deferrals and reductions to enable us to reach a 0% increase.

Steve Ezzes – Mr. Ezzes felt we are going to be facing more expenses next year over and above COVID , stating if the trends about home sales are increasing which would bring even more children into the school system. He feels the BOE hasn't taken that into account – he would like to use the savings from the past few months and other reductions to achieve a flat mill rate. Mr. Ezzes is looking for guidance from the Board of Finance as to where to take these reductions.

Conversation continued regarding using General Fund, especially considering unusual circumstances and expenses incurred and future expenses, due to COVID 19

2- **Discussion/decision regarding the proposed Town operating budget for the FY 2020-21.**

Mr. Murphy moved to approve a \$13,630,997 Town Operating Budget and \$53,841,443 Board of Education Budget, Capital Budget of \$1,110,961 by reducing the BOE budget by \$320,000, reducing the Public Works budget by \$80,000, taking out the Michael's Way Bridge from the Capital Budget and using \$353,333 from the General Fund, to get to a 0% increase in the mill rate. Mr. Farr seconded. Motion failed 4:3 with Mr. Ezzes, Ms. Gare, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Grauberd opposed.

Mr. Grauberd moved to approve the Town and Board of Education budget as proposed, reducing the Capital budget to \$1,020,961, use \$664,810 from the General Fund Surplus getting us to a flat mill rate. Overall budget would be \$74,506,496. Ms. Gare seconded. Motion passed 4:3 with Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Farr and Mr. Murphy opposed.

3- **Discussion/decision regarding the proposed Debt Service budget for FY 2020-21.** Mr Baldwin made a motion to approve debt service budget of \$5,613,095, Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4- **Discussion/decision regarding setting the mill rate for the Fiscal Year 2020-21.** Mr. Baldwin moved to set the Mill Rate of 32.37 for the FY 2020-21. Mr. Farr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5- **Discussion/decision regarding approval of minutes from the May 7th and May 21st special meetings.**

Mr. Grauberd requested the minutes be amended. Mr. Baldwin requested the minutes be more simplified going forward.

Ms. Gare moved to approve the minutes from May 7th and May 21st with Mr. Grauberd's amendments. Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion passed 4:3 with Mr Farr, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Bochinski opposed.

Mr. Farr moved to postpone the approval of the minutes as currently drafted. Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion passed 6:1 with Ms. Gare opposed.

6- **Adjourn:** Mr. Bochinski moved to adjourn, Mr. Murphy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Board of Finance: July 9, 2020