

Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Meeting held remotely due to COVID 19

- 1. Present:** Board of Finance Chairman Steve Ezzes, members Allen Grauberd, Dick Bochinski, Amy Gare, Rone Baldwin and Jeff Farr. First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Finance Director Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Board of Education Chair Tony Pesco, Superintendent of Schools Dr. William McKersie, School District Finance Director Phil Cross, various Town Department Heads, Boards and Commission members and residents participating.
- 2. Public Hearing:** The Board of Finance will accept public comments on the proposed fiscal year budgets of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Capital Improvements and Debt Service as submitted to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Ezzes started the meeting with a recap of this year and the challenges everyone has faced. He mentioned the restrictions faced with last year's Annual Town Budget Meeting (ATM) due to COVID and the Governor's Executive orders. Mr. Ezzes went on to explain that this year's ATBM would be held outside at the Weston High School Football Field, at 2pm followed by voting at Town Hall. The Referendum will take place the following Saturday at Town Hall from 12pm to 8pm. A rain date is set for the following Saturday May 1st with voting directly after and the referendum on May 8th. He thanked the members of the Board of Finance, the Board of Education and Town Staff for all of their efforts.

Mr. Ezzes announced a couple of changes to the proposed budgets: 1. the Police Commission has asked to withdraw the appropriation for the Police Body Cameras, they will be issuing an RFP within the next couple of weeks and hope to complete this project before the end of the fiscal year. The Board of Finance will hear a request for a special appropriation in the current fiscal year once it has been voted on by the Police Commission. 2. The Board of Selectmen has asked that the proceeds from the sale of the Fromson Strassler property not be used as a determination of the use of the unassigned fund balance. Mr. Ezzes also mentioned that the Board of Education has made changes in capital and use of the surplus from the current fiscal year. The Town is also making changes to other aspects of the budget; we anticipate a reduction in the proposed capital budget as well as in spending. The mill rate will likely be lower than the current proposed mill rate increase of 2.5%.

Mr. Ezzes highlighted some increases in the Capital budget in overall road paving budget and an increase in sidewalk spending. Mr. Bochinski mentioned the deliberation meeting next week on April 6th. The Town and Board of Education will be prepared to speak to the changes mentioned in detail.

Mr. Ezzes then opened the meeting up to public noting that each speaker would have three minutes to comment or ask questions.

The following residents spoke: (for more details, please refer to the video recording found here: <https://vimeo.com/531306331>)

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| Gregg Haythorn | 6 Winthrop Hill |
| Debbie and Larry Rehr | Ravenwood Drive |
| Ruth Israely | 11 Norhome Drive |

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| Kristana Esslinger | 59 Ledgewood Dr. East |
| Lynn Ries | 43 Buttonball Lane |
| Amy Sanborn | Old Hyde Road |
| Debbie Rehr | Ravenwood Drive |
| Sarah Grigerick | 47 Fantonhill Lane |
| Carolyn Hill-Bjerke | 155 Weston Road |
| Ilene Richardson | 15 Heritage Lane |
| Andrea Chase | 18 High Acre Road |
| Andrew Palladino | 126 Good Hill Road |
| Martin Mohabeer | 10 Hyde Ridge |

Mr. Farr asked that the process of the ATMB be explained. Mr. Luiz went through the details on this and once again reiterated the dates and timing of the upcoming ATBM.

Mr. Ezzes noted that the additional meeting tomorrow night would not be necessary.

Mr. Grauberd reminded everyone that the Board of Finance is voting to approve the budget on April 6, at 6pm.

3. **Adjournment:** Mr. Baldwin moved to adjourn at 8.36pm. Mr. Bochinski seconded this, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant.