

**APPROVED/BOARD OF FINANCE MINUTES – BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016**

A budget deliberations meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the large conference room in Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Ulmer, Chairman; Paul Sutherland, Vice Chairman; Marty Heiser; Jessica Mancini; and Mike Raduazzo

Town Officials: Rudy Marconi, First Selectman; Maureen Kozlark, Selectman; Kevin Redmond, Controller; Jane Berendsen-Hill

A G E N D A

Budget Deliberations - Board of Selectmen Revenue and Capital Budgets
General Budget Discussion

Mr. Ulmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Ulmer informed the BOF that he received a request from the BOE that it wants to accelerate three capital projects that the BOS did not approve.

BOS REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

REVENUE

Mr. Ulmer noted that the BOF does not want to change the tax collection rate from 98.7%, noting that a change of .1 up or down only changes the mill rate by a tenth of a percent.

Ms. Berendsen-Hill reported that prior year tax collections and supplemental motor vehicle tax collections are currently over budget by about \$300k and she has new information that a property with a deferred tax account is due to close today which will bring in \$125k, all prior year taxes, interest and lien fees. There is also a tax payer currently under the protection of the bankruptcy court who owes approximately \$400k.

Ms. Berendsen-Hill stated that she intends to initiate tax sales on approximately ten properties in the fall of this year.

The BOF looked at the "Intergovernmental" revenue budget line, knowing that the State will be decreasing revenue sharing to municipalities.

The State imposed annual spending increase cap of 2.5% was discussed. Debt service, arbitration awards and special education would be exempt.

Mr. Marconi noted that the State of Connecticut is losing population with the exception of Fairfield County.

Some of Boehringer Ingelheim's tax abatements will end in 2018, followed by more in 2020.

Mr. Marconi informed the BOF that the Playhouse and Chefs Warehouse want more space, which will increase gross revenue for the building by as much as \$200k.

The BOF proposed the following changes to revenue items:

			Increased/ Decreased To	
Line Item #	Name	Proposed		Net Change
43130	Interest & Lien Fees	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
44103	Building	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 525,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
44230	Special Services	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
44264	Yanity Gym	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
44712	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ (15,000.00)
TOTAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES				\$ 90,000.00

CAPITAL

Mr. Raduazzo noted that several price quotes for capital items are several years old, and wondered how valid they are today.

Ms. Mancini asked if the library website overhaul was a proper bond item from an account standpoint and why it was not in the library's operating budget.

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/2017

PROJECT	
General Description	AMOUNT
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 261,500.00
PUBLIC RECREATION	
Community Golf Course	\$ 123,500.00
Parks & Recreation	\$ 313,100.00
PUBLIC SAFETY	
Police	\$ 25,000.00
Fire	\$ 297,426.00
PUBLIC WORKS	
Highway	\$ 421,925.00
Engineering	\$ 431,900.00
EDUCATION	
Board of Education	\$ 809,168.00
LIBRARY	
Library Website	\$ 25,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,708,519.00

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Mancini and seconded by Mr. Sutherland to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Vote 5-0. **Motion APPROVED**.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rodgers, Recording Secretary