

**APPROVED BOARD OF FINANCE MINUTES – BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017**

A budget deliberations meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in the large conference room in Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Ulmer, Chairman; Jessica Mancini, Vice Chairman; Marty Heiser; Michael Raduazzo; and Sean Connelly
Town Officials: Rudy Marconi, First Selectman; Maureen Kozlark, Selectman; Kevin Redmond, Controller;
Board of Education: Dr. Karen Baldwin, Supt. Of Schools; Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Kim Hapken Fran Walton, Chairman Board of Education; David Cordisco; Doug Silver; Mike Taylor; Margaret Stamatis

AGENDA

- Discussion & Vote on Capital Items
- Discussion & Vote on Board of Education Budget
- Discussion & Vote on Debt Service Budget
- Discussion & Vote on Town & Infrastructure Budget
- Discussion & Vote on Revenues, Fund Balance Use

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

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON CAPITAL ITEMS

Ms. Mancini made and Mr. Raduazzo seconded a motion to approve the General Government capital budget in the amount of \$125,800.00

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

Mr. Raduazzo made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to approve the Community Golf Course capital budget in the amount of \$60,000.00

Vote: 4-1. Mr. Heiser voted against the Motion. Motion **APPROVED.**

Mr. Connelly made and Mr. Heiser seconded a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation Department's capital budget in the amount of \$295,211.00.

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

Ms. Mancini made and Mr. Raduazzo seconded a motion to approve the Fire Department's capital budget in the amount of \$447,000.00.

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

Mr. Ulmer made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to approve the Highway Department's capital budget in the amount of \$498,784.00.

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

Mr. Ulmer made and Mr. Connelly seconded a motion to approve the Engineering Department's capital budget in the amount of \$990,000.00.

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

Ms. Mancini made and Mr. Ulmer seconded a motion to approve the Board Of Education's capital budget in the amount of \$928,770.00.

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

Mr. Heiser made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation Department's special capital request for \$950,000.00.

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

Total Capital Budget Approved = \$4,295,565.00.

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. Connelly stated that his feelings about reducing the BOE's proposed budget were very mixed. Mr. Ulmer called it a "difficult one". The great unknown of the State's budget loomed large.

Mr. Heiser made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to reduce the Board of Education's proposed operating budget by \$884,000.00 (from \$93,517,544.00 to \$92,633,544.00) an increase over the prior year's budget of \$2,259,315.00, or 2.5%.

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

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON DEBT SERVICE BUDGET

Mr. Ulmer made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to approve the proposed Debt Service budget in the amount of \$11,522,591.00.

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

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON TOWN & INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET

Mr. Raduazzo suggested reducing the Town's budget by \$80k. Mr. Marconi objected, stating that the BOS scrubs the budget very well. To have the Board of Finance cherry pick the proposed budget is wrong. Mr. Ulmer responded saying the Board of Finance does not cherry pick.

Ms. Mancini opined that the BOS has really vetted its budget and she could not support an \$80k reduction, but might support a cut of \$60k. "I want them to know that we appreciate the work that they are doing. I don't want people to be laid off."

Mr. Heiser: "The roll of the Board of Finance is a little presumptuous. We may be asking too much, but at the same time we have all the taxpayers out there."

Ms. Kozlark: "There is no low-hanging fruit here... a smaller number (reduction) would be much better for us."

Mr. Marconi: "We will look at the eight-man minimum (at the fire department)."

Mr. Raduazzo made and Mr. Heiser seconded a motion to reduce the proposed Town and Infrastructure Budget by \$60,000.00 (from \$37,452,295.00 to \$37,392,295.00), an increase over the prior year's budget of \$813,757.00 or 2.22%

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

DISCUSSION & VOTE ON REVENUES, FUND BALANCE USE

Mr. Ulmer suggested the use of \$1.8mm of fund balance as revenue which would put the balance at 9.68% of next year's budget, leaving around \$13.7mm, and resulting in a 1.92% increase in the mill rate.

Mr. Heiser favored the use of \$2.0mm of fund balance, leaving around 9.5% and resulting in a 1.76% increase in the mill rate.

Ms. Mancini and Mr. Connelly expressed support for the use of \$1.8mm of fund balance.

Mr. Ulmer made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to approve the use of \$1,800,000.00 of fund balance as revenue in fiscal year 2017-2018.

Vote: 4-1. Mr. Heiser voted against the motion. Motion **APPROVED**.

Total Expenses are \$141,548,430.00, up 1.82%. The \$1,800,000.00 use of Fund Balance and \$12,800,727 of other revenues requires \$126,947,703 of Current Taxes for a new Mill rate of 27.21, up 1.92% from prior year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heiser made and Ms. Mancini seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rodgers, Recording Secretary