

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FINANCE – 2016/2017 BUDGET REVIEW
OXFORD TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairman Jack Kiley; Tom Kelly; Robert DeBisschop; Sue Arpin; Dana Flach. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director. Absent: Lila Ferrillo

Selectman Kathy Johnson was present as Audience of Citizens.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiley at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2016-2017 budget requests for the following departments:

PLANNING & ZONING: Arnold Jensen appeared to present the budget for the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mr. Jensen passed out a printout to the Board members. Six line items were eliminated, i.e. uniforms, mileage. Zoning applications for single family homes are down. There is an active litigation and large projects in Town.

Plan of Conservation and Development is a new item at \$10,000. A subcommittee has been set up to determine this amount.

Vehicle Maintenance is a new line item. Planning & Zoning has their own vehicle which is why this is a new line item. Mr. Hliva explained that P&Z vehicle was removed several years ago and maintenance was moved to Town Hall.

Salaries are Union-negotiated. Engineering Services asked for \$55,000 but cut back to \$40,000 and Mr. Jensen is concerned. Mr. Kelly suggested to Mr. Jensen that the Commission can request more money if they come close before the end of the year.

Ms. Flach questioned Part-time Clerk. Mr. Jensen said Part-time Clerk is working for Grant Writer at present time. She is not absolutely necessary so Commission could do without.

There was little discussion regarding this budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Sergeant Dan Semosky appeared to present the budget for the Police Department.

Biggest cost is cut by Governor; used to be 70/30 split but is now 100% Town. There are seven (7) State troopers (2 on long term disability); ten (10) local police (one part-time). Discussion ensued regarding new shopping center and detriment that comes with the new shopping center.

There is a need for additional staff. Mr. Hliva discussed cost for troopers, i.e. \$90,000 per trooper plus benefits. He also discussed local officers out on Workers' Compensation that Town has to pick up.

Most of the increase (\$560,308) has to do with hiring officers (weapons, uniforms), retroactive increases. Overtime has increased from \$50,000 to \$80,000. Discussion ensued regarding disposition of overtime among local officers and State troopers.

Ms. Arpin asked if new hire troopers (retired) are coming in at the highest wage. Sergeant Semosky explained that there is competition among towns for retired troopers so they are hired at the highest wage.

Sgt. Semosky said he will need more uniforms and he is all out of weapons.

Mr. Kiley asked about the new vehicle. The amount (\$40,677.27) needs to be pushed over to Capital; it's not part of operating budget. The overall increase in the budget is very large.

CAPITAL PROJECT – POLICE: - Sgt. Semosky said body cameras are State law as of July 1, 2016 but Oxford will not be ready. If there is no directive body cameras will not be needed right away. State needs to be up and ready before Town will have to comply. \$67,019.00 covers twelve (12) body cameras.

Sgt. Semosky said State will come out to give a rundown on tasers. Mr. Kelly said that in order to fund tasers a review of the Town insurance will come into play concerning liability and this will incur a cost. Troopers have tasers. Funding for twelve (12) tasers is requested.

Computers have been replaced in two cars and the rest of the cars need to be updated to run the software.

The new car is a Ford Explorer (KA8 Interceptor). The price is \$40,677.27. Vehicle is exactly what the department needs.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kiley made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Flach seconded the Motion. Vote was taken; all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Steeves

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TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK