

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING – MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE TOWN OF OXFORD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing of the Board of Finance of the Town of Oxford was held in the Oxford Town Hall on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present and absent at the commencement of this Public Hearing were as follows:

Present

Chairman Jack Kiley
Robert DeBisschop
Tom Kelly
Lila Ferrillo
Sue Arpin

Absent

Dana Flach

Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director; First Selectman George Temple.

Chairman Kiley opened the Public Hearing and introduced the Town of Oxford New Middle School Bond Resolution into the record which is the subject of the Public Hearing:

RESOLUTION: APPROPRIATING 444,900,000 FOR A NEW TOWN OF OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUEANCE OF \$44,900,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

Mr. Kiley recognized James Hliva, Finance Director. Per the Town Charter, Mr. Hliva read the Fiscal Impact Statement into the record (see attached Exhibit A). Mr. Hliva advised that copies of the New Middle School bond resolution were available at this meeting.

Mr. Hliva advised that because the amount of the bond issue exceeds 10% of the current tax levy, the resolution must go to a referendum.

Based on the Fiscal Impact Statement the Board of Finance believes that the proposed borrowing is within all statutory borrowing limitations and the Town has sufficient ability, current and future, to pay for the expenditure and continue to meet its operating expenses and all outstanding borrowing authorizations.

Chairman Kiley asked if anyone from the audience had any questions or comments.

The following people spoke at the meeting:

Robert Slie, Chairman, Oxford School Building Committee, 71 Bee Mountain Road, commented that the building committee was hopeful that this bond resolution would pass. The Town is in dire need of an updated middle school to meet the academic needs of the students. The OSBC has been working together with Town officials to build that will serve the students.

George Temple, First Selectman, 2 Jensen Farm Road, commented that he totally supports this project for numerous reasons. He spoke to the possibility of using the Center School as a facility for the Board of Education, Parks and Recreation and the Police Department. He also spoke to the current trend of keeping schools together and this would be accomplished by building the new middle school. He expressed the importance and urgency regarding the new school, looking at funding. If the resolution doesn't pass, funding may not be forthcoming in the future. He would like to see the building cost to come in under the proposed budget.

Mr. Kiley noted that the \$44,900,000 is based on a concept only. There are no plans, no drawings. It is a best estimate of what the school will look like and what it will cost.

Amy Cote, Chairman of the Oxford Board of Education, 42 Newgate Road, commented that she is encouraging the Townspeople to support this school project which has been needed for a very long time to meet the academic needs of the students. She fully endorses the project.

Mr. Kiley pointed out that funding will be in jeopardy if 27.5% reimbursement (\$33MM) if extend past . Mr. Slie noted that there could be a 10% drop if it goes past the deadline.

Ms. Ferrillo asked why the original amount was reduced by \$3.7MM since the mill rate impact was nominal. Mr. Temple responded that there were soft costs included in the funding that were not necessary and therefore these were cut. Ms. Ferrillo asked Mr. Slie how the cuts will impact the school. He responded that the reductions did not affect the education value, they were in fact, soft costs.

Ms. Cote noted that if the deadline does not pass by November 15 all paperwork has to be redone. If it fails at referendum, the building committee will have to start all over also.

Mr. Kiley stated that the Town of Oxford can afford the school. The debt load will increase but the Town can afford it.

Kathy Johnson, Selectman, 68 Dorman Road, commented that the time is now for the new school. It is good for the children and the Town. She encourages everyone to support the project.

Linda Czaplinski, 30 Freeman Road, asked how long is left on the high school debt. Mr. Hliva replied that there is twelve (12) years left on the high school debt.

David Kimball, 178 Punkup Road, commented that he supports the middle school project. He noted that if this resolution does not pass, the funding will never come this way again. Everyone needs to come together.

With no other questions or comments from the audience, Mr. Kiley declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnette Steeves
Lynnette Steeves, Clerk

17 SEP 21 PM 3:44
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Agnes H. Clark
TOWN CLERK

EXHIBIT A

TOWN OF OXFORD BOARD OF FINANCE

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROPOSED NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 20, 2017

Project: Planning, acquisition and construction of the NEW TOWN OF OXFORD
MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1 Total Amount to be borrowed or bonded (net of anticipated state grants) maximum amount. \$ 33,000,000
- 2 Estimated interest rate for such notes or bonds, based on the prevailing interest rate for municipal bonds or notes 3.50% to 4.00%
- 3 Proposed term of bonds or notes Maximum of 20 years
- 4 Anticipated date on which the bonds or notes are expected to be issued (Notes through July 2021). Interest on Notes not included. 7/30/2021
- 5 The following information has been provided by the Tax Collector and the Tax Assessor
 - Tax Assessor Grand List \$ 1,477,153,946
 - Tax Collector Current Tax Levy \$ 32,636,583
 - Tax Collector Current Mill Rate 22.21
- 6 Estimated annual tax burden represented in mills, based upon the current Grand List of the Town based on a 4.00% interest rate 2.01
- 7 The proposed bond issuance does exceed 10% of the current tax levy calculated as follows
 - Current Tax Levy \$ 32,636,583
 - 10% of Current Tax Levy \$ 3,263,658
- 8 The proposed bond issuance and appropriation will not cause the statutory restrictions imposed by the State of Connecticut for debt limitations to be exceeded. In addition, based on current and projected expense and revenue needs of the Town, the Town has the sufficient ability, current and future to pay for the proposed bond issuance and appropriation and continue to meet its

This fiscal impact statement is based in part on information provided by the Town's financial advisor. The dates and amounts listed above are estimates or approximations. Interest rates are subject to change. The timing of a bond or note sale can be subject to many factors.