

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FINANCE – 2018 / 2019 BUDGET REVIEW
OXFORD TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairman Jack Kiley; Jeff Grant; Robert DeBisschop; Paula Jensen; Sue Arpin; Dana Flach. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director.

Also in attendance: Jeff Haney, Dog Warden; Leonard Beauprey, Tree Warden; Patricia Babbage, Elderly Commission; Ed Carver, Economic Development Commission; Sgt. Dan Semosky, Police Department; First Selectman George Temple; Scott Halstead, WPCA.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiley at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2018-2019 budget requests for the following department:

DOG WARDEN

Jeff Haney represented that the budget seems to be in good shape. He said the food bill is low because of many donations. Donation account is currently \$30,000-\$35,000. Mr. Hliva stated that the Dog Warden has only spent \$2,600 out of \$3,000 for heat. There are currently no dogs in the pound.

Mr. Kiley questioned the amount of the veterinary bill. Mr. Hliva noted that most of the veterinary bills are taken out of the donation account.

TREE WARDEN (TREE REMOVAL)

Mr. Kiley commented that the request began with \$154,000. Tree removal is at \$125,000 to continue with the removal of ash trees. There is a request for \$25,000 for tree pruning. Leonard Beauprey explained that he wants to begin a program in town to maintain roadside plantings. If maintenance (pruning) is performed it will prevent tree removal later. Mr. Beauprey presented a printout to the Board members of an inventory of which only fifteen (15) roads have been done to date. There are 206 trees to be addressed all over the Town and 95% consists of takedowns.

There was lengthy discussion among Board members and Mr. Beauprey with an explanation regarding the status of Holbrook Road. There were recommendations with regard to needs in the budget.

ELDERLY COMMISSION (SENIOR CENTER)

Patricia Babbage, Director, began her presentation concerning the wages. The Director position increased from 32 hours to 40 hours and salary increased \$15,000. This was a Town request in negotiations. The part-timers (4 drivers [19.5 hrs./week], custodian [15 hrs./week] and dispatcher [17.5 hrs./week]) have received no increase. Mr. Hliva noted that there is a grant for the part-time drivers for \$26,000 which reduces the budgeted amount.

Ms. Babbage noted that the building repairs seem to increase, specifically the oil tank issue. She listed out several other issues that need repair.

Mr. Kiley noted that the Senior Center does generate revenue through dues and charges for trips.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ed Carver appeared to present this budget. Mr. Hliva explained the salaries.

The website is moving along. Mr. Carver explained how the website is set up. Mr. Kiley had a question regarding the tax incentive zone in Oxford.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Dan Semosky appeared to present the budget for the Police Department. Mr. Hliva said there are six officers taking Payment In Lieu of Medical.

Mr. Kiley noted that the Police Department has reached \$2.4 million including benefits. Trooper Dyki has retired from the State Police and has been hired on to the Oxford Police. There are four troopers at \$220,000. There are total 12 officers. Sgt. Semosky said there is a big request for the police to have a presence at the schools.

First Selectman George Temple also appeared with Sgt. Semosky to contribute to the budget discussion.

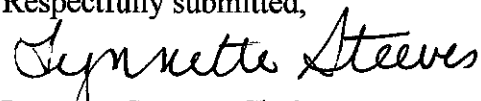
Police Department has nine vehicles. Mr. Temple stated that he wants some of the older vehicles parked at the schools. Mr. Kiley said without using the older vehicles, the maintenance line item should go down.

Sgt. Semosky said computers/laptops in the vehicles and the office need to be replaced. Body cameras will be in use by year end and tasers are currently in use. The hook-ups for computers need to be in the older vehicles, but computers are not needed.

ADJOURN

Ms. Flach made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Arpin seconded the Motion. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynnette Steeves, Clerk

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TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
TOWN CLERK
Steeves