

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FINANCE – 2017/2018 BUDGET REVIEW
OXFORD TOWN HALL
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.**

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

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 2017-2018 budget requests for the following departments. Mr. Hliva presented the budgets:

ASSESSMENT APPEALS:

One meeting per year.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Fireworks, Memorial Day Parade, small donations

\$12,000.00:	\$2,000.00 Pomperaug River Watershed	\$400.00 Fireworks
	\$ 500.00 Housatonic Valley	\$400.00 Memorial Day Parade
	\$1,500.00 Historical Society	

CULTURAL ARTS

General Operating Fund: \$3,000.00

DEBT SERVICE

Interest: Interest last year was \$793,356. Paid off principal, interest is now \$730,644.

Principal: Amount last year was \$2,248,239. This year is \$2,275,914. Increased because of amortization table for refunding of the schools.

Bonding for Library will be approximately \$42.6MM.

Lengthy discussion ensued among BOF members regarding the Board of Education, reimbursement for the high school.

Mr. Kiley suggested hiring Larry Secor to try to recover State monies owed on the high school, Quaker Farms roof and Quaker Farms oil tank with the leak. Mr. Hliva will be in touch with Mr. Secor.

Mr. Hliva continued that the short term items need to be bonded this summer. The high school football field and the library will be the bond issue. Mr. Kelly asked if there was a potential for improper/inaccurate recordkeeping with regard to the library. Mr. Hliva suggested inviting Mr. George Mitchell to the meeting to discuss issues with the library.

Mr. Kelly asked if there was any way to reduce debt for the Town. Mr. Hliva explained what could be done.

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Board took a brief recess at this time – 6:26 p.m.
Returned to session – 6:30 p.m.
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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Budget is going from \$129,000 to \$133,000. Increase is going to Cheshire regional dispatch. No increase in other items.

Mr. Kelly questioned the Maintenance Contract cost and Mr. Hliva explained that covers all radios for the Fire Department and Public Works. Mr. Hliva can breakout the individual cost for this item relative to the Fire Department.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mr. Kelly questioned the status of employees moving to an HSA. The Town will cover 75% of the deductible in the first year and will decrease after that.

There is still no word on the pension from the State of what the percentage. Police went up from 15.89% to 17.1%. No Teamster dues go to fund healthcare. When contracts are up for renewal, Mr. Hliva will push for HSA.

Mr. Hliva has included an increase in Workers' Compensation line item because of various situations in the Town. One of the police officers is returning. He is completing recertification procedures. The other police officer has also returned to class for recertification.

Liability insurance has been increased because of purchase of new equipment and refurbishing of buildings.

ETHICS

Budget remained flat.

LAWN MAINTENANCE

One of the bidders appeared at a BOF meeting. He was the third highest bidder. Ms. Gatto was contacted regarding the bids. She stated she was not happy with previous company. However, the Selectmen's office will select the previous company. The contract is three years, but it will be awarded for one year with a two-year option. Mr. Kelly asked who will do the evaluation before approval of the two-year option. Contract is based on growing season.

PROBATE

Remained the same.

STREET HYDRANTS

There is a large increase percentage-wise, from \$75,000 to \$94,000 for new water line from police station down Route 67.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kelly made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Flach seconded the Motion. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Syrette Steever, Clerk

17 APR 10 PM 5:34
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Christopher A. Westbrook
TOWN CLERK