

MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
March 31, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. – Oxford Town Hall

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Kiley at 6:02 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members were present: Chairman Jack Kiley, Tom Kelly, Lila Ferrillo, Robert DeBisschop, Richard Burke and Nancy Schmitt. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and vote on the FY 2014-2015 budget requests.

Assessment Appeals Board

Motion to approve the budget of \$865 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Assessor

Motion to approve the budget of \$184,490 made by Nancy Schmitt. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Department

Motion to approve the budget of \$129,287 made by Nancy Schmitt. Second by Dick Burke.
Discussion: Computer equipment was discussed. Jim said all of it was put in Town Hall budget. Tom noted he likes it in each department to show each one's cost. Jim said he could break it out per department in a report. Motion passes unanimously.

Civic Activities

Motion to approve the budget of \$11,500 made by Nancy Schmitt. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Civil Preparedness

Motion to approve the budget of \$8,700 made by Nancy Schmitt. Second by Jack Kiley.
Discussion: Director's wages was discussed. Jim noted it had previously been in the Fire Marshal budget. There is no increase. Motion passes unanimously.

Conservation Commission

Motion to approve the budget of \$120,047 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Nancy Schmitt.
Discussion: Jack noted the importance of trail maintenance. Detention pond maintenance was discussed. The funding is for outside contractors. (5) Ayes (1) Abstention by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes.

Cultural Arts

Motion to approve the budget of \$2,000 made by Dick Burke. Second by Tom Kelly.
Discussion: Nancy asked why so much was cut for concerts. She was told the funding for this item was moved to Park and Rec. Motion passes unanimously.

Debt Service

Motion to approve \$892,403 for Debt services interest and \$2,491,287 for Debt services principal made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: A report of all debt was given to the Board and reviewed. Bob asked if the information includes the short term notes and Jim said yes. Dick commented that we need a policy to keep debt at a certain level. Jim noted that debt is 7% of budget. Dick asked what is acceptable. Leasing was discussed. Jack noted that the Board of Education got out of leasing. Lila commented that we expected the Board of Education to stay away from leasing (which they have) and we should do the same. Items in the Note payments was discussed. Lease payments were discussed. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Abstention by Dick Burke. Motion passes.

Dog Warden

Motion to approve the budget of \$85,071 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt.
Discussion: Bob DeBisschop asked for back-up on heat increase. Jim noted that the department requested the same as last year but the Selectmen raised the figure because the new facility is larger and an estimated increase is in the budget. Dick commented that the original figure should be used.

Amended Motion to approve heat at \$3,600 and approve the total budget of \$83,671 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Economic Development Commission

Motion to approve the budget of \$82,800 made by Dick Burke. Second by Jack Kiley.

Amended Motion by Jack Kiley to approve Contracted Services-economic development at \$49,000. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve development expenses at \$5,000 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve advertising at \$3,000 by Dick Burke. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to approve the budget of \$60,800 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Elderly Commission

Motion to approve the budget of \$201,551 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Jack Kiley.
Discussion: Tom noted the municipal agent has \$1,500 increase and should be 3% increase.

Amended Motion to approve wages-municipal agent at \$9,004 by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve facility maintenance at \$6,500 made by Dick Burke. Second by Jack Kiley. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve heat at \$15,000 made by \$15,000 made by Dick Burke. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve programs, regular at \$8,000 by Dick Burke. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Amended Motion to decrease program—supplies to \$2,000 by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Dick Burke. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Motion to approve total budget of \$195,564 by Tom Kelly. Second by Jack Kiley. (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Emergency Communications

Motion to approve budget of \$111,063 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Contracted services dispatch was discussed. Information was recently received showing a cost increase.

Amended Motion to approve contracted services-dispatch at \$64,642 and total budget of \$125,678 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Employee Benefits

Motion to approve budget of \$2,215,716 by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Jim noted that the budget may change if positions are adjusted which will affect this. Tom noted he will approve the figure as listed. Motion passes unanimously.

Ethics Board

Motion to approve budget of \$100 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Jack Kiley. Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Department

Motion to approve budget of \$204,852 made by Jack Kiley. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Jack asked how the Selectmen decided to cut Contracted services-audit by \$5,000. Jim noted the current year includes a detailed audit which Charter required every third year. Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Board

Motion to approve budget of \$2,564 by made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Lila asked if the request for 3% raise for the Clerk for the current fiscal year was forwarded and reviewed by the Selectmen. Jim indicated it will be on their next agenda and that it will include request for raise for next fiscal year. Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Contingency

Motion to approve budget of \$200,000 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Jack commented that the Board should consider waiting until all budgets are reviewed and voted on before this is decided.

Motion to Table made by Jack Kiley. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire Department

Motion to approve budget of \$343,648 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Lila commented on the big increase for computer systems-hardware and Jim recalled that this is for the laptops in the cars for assistant chiefs. Tom noted that this is for a replacement of one tough books computer was to be purchased this year. Tom wondered if they could use a regular laptop like the Police Dept. which would save funds. Jack noted that he told Scott to put in additional funds for Vehicle Repair because it is consistently needed.

Amended Motion to approve Vehicle Repair at \$25,000 and total budget of \$358,648 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire Marshal

Motion to approve budget of \$115,287 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Equipment-expensed was reviewed and it was noted that this is for a new gas meter. Vehicle repair was discussed. Jim noted that the deputies have a 2004 Crown Victoria that was given by the Police Department. Motion passes unanimously.

Health and Social Services

Motion to approve budget of \$10,263 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: TEAM was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve TEAM at \$3,000 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Vote: (4) Ayes (2) Nays by Nancy Schmitt and Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes.

Amended Motion to approve budget of \$9,263 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Vote: (4) Ayes (2) Nays by Nancy Schmitt and Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes.

Housing Authority

Motion to approve budget of \$800 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Actual shows that less of budget is used this year.

Amended motion to approve budget of \$600 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Insurance

Motion to approve budget of \$204,997 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Lake Housatonic

Motion to approve budget of \$10,680 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Lake Zoar

Motion to approve budget of \$23,906 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Lawn Maintenance

Motion to approve budget of \$61,500 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Library

Motion to approve budget of \$256,425 made by Jack Kiley. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Increase of part-time wages to bring it to minimum wage was discussed. Motion passes unanimously.

Open Burning

Motion to approve budget of \$721 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Park & Recreation

Motion to approve budget of \$279,381 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Lila spoke about wages-part time-maintenance.

Amended Motion to approve wages-part time-maintenance of \$34,937 and approve total budget of \$272,398 by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Dick Burke

Planning & Zoning

Motion to approve budget of \$135,785 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Contracted services-P&Z (for town planner) was discussed. Tom commented on the quarterly report that the department is to provide to the Board and said he spoke to the secretary about the reports who will seek authorization from the chairman before doing the reports.

Amended Motion to approve Contracted services-P&Z of \$20,000 by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Jack Kiley. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve \$0 for Plan of Conservation and Development made by Dick Burke. Second by Jack Kiley. Discussion: Bob noted we need a proposal before this is funded. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve the total budget of \$140,785 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Jack Kiley. Motion passes unanimously.

First Selectman Temple joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Police Department

Motion to approve budget of \$1,251,586 by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Discussion: Tom voiced his concern with overtime. Lila noted it could be cut if more officers were staffed to work regular shifts and there is a need to cover those out sick and injured. First Selectman Temple noted we should have a better handle on the overtime soon. Discussed ensued about the cost of overtime for State Trooper versus Town Officer. Nancy commented on the new radios requested and Lila noted the request is part of the Capital plan.

Amended Motion to approve \$45,000 for Contracted services-Troopers OT made by Jack Kiley. Second by Tom Kelly. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$1,241,586 by Tom Kelly. Second by Jack Kiley. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes.

First Selectman Temple excused himself from the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Pomperaug Health

Motion to approve budget of \$99,988 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Jack Kiley. Discussion: Jack noted that we need to rely on our representatives on the Board to keep the budget in line and they have not done that in the past couple years. He noted the benefits package is high. Vote: (4) Ayes (2) Nays by Lila Ferrillo and Tom Kelly. Motion passes.

Probate Court

Motion to approve budget of \$6,443 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Works

Motion to approve budget of \$844,067 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Jack Kiley. Discussion: Wages overtime was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$125,000 for Wages overtime made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$855,767 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Highway Maintenance

Motion to approve budget of \$888,495 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Gasoline was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$180,000 for Gasoline made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Bob asked if transfers were made in to this line item and where they came from. He noted he does not recall any transfers from contingency. Jim was asked to research this matter. Vote: (4) Nays made by Tom Kelly, Jack Kiley, Nancy Schmitt and Bob DeBisschop. Motion fails.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$888,495 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Equipment rental was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve budget of \$115,500 for Equipment Rental, budget of \$220,000 for Hwy materials, budget of \$13,000 for Signs-highway, budget of \$7,500 for Supplies-departmental made by Dick Burke. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$861,000 made by Bob DeBisschop. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Works/Administration and General Expenses

Motion to approve budget of \$76,594 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: This is last year's budget amount. Contracted services-storm water was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve Contracted services-storm water of \$22,000 and approve total budget of \$78,094 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Dick Burke. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Tom Kelly. Motion passes.

Recycling/Solid Waste

Motion to approve budget of \$279,781 made by Dick Burke. Second by Jack Kiley. Motion passes unanimously.

Registrar of Voters

Motion to approve budget of \$70,924 made by Jack Kiley. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Contracted Services was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$3,000 for Contracted Services and approve \$0 for postage made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$69,224 made by Jack Kiley. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectmen

Motion to approve budget of \$294,272 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Discussion: Dues was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$6,952 for Dues and total budget of \$287,320 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Street Lighting

Motion to approve budget of \$25,727 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Tax Collector

Motion to approve budget of \$149,786 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Discussion: Wages part time was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$9,360 for Wages part-time and total budget of \$143,936 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Town Clerk

Motion to approve budget of \$177,493 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Town Counsel

Motion to approve budget of \$168,000 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Fees for legal services were discussed. It was noted that there were a lot of fees incurred in 2011-2012 due to Tax Collector issue.

Amended Motion to approve \$60,000 for Legal Services-Town Counsel made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly.

Amended Motion to approve total budget of \$148,000 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Town Hall

Motion to approve budget of \$260,952 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Discussion: Computer system hardware was discussed. There is an increase due to requests from Building Department and Planning & Zoning being moved to this line item. Tom asked about Computer System maintenance and Jim noted this is for IT services for all computers and it is bid out. Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer

Motion to approve budget of \$7,780 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: Wages-treasurer deputy was discussed.

Amended Motion to approve \$600 for Wages-Treasurer Deputy made by Jack Kiley and approve total budget of \$6,780. Second by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Tree Removal

Motion to approve budget of \$42,000 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Water Hydrant Charges

Motion to approve budget of \$73,464 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Lila asked for information and Jim indicated the bill is to pay Heritage Water and Aquarian. This does not include over fifty-five communities. Motion passes unanimously.

Water Pollution Control Authority

Motion to approve budget of \$698,403 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion to approve budget of \$900 made by Jack Kiley. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Board of Education

Their requested budget was \$28,548,584. There was an increase in the budget of 8% for Medical insurance. A letter was received from the insurance company indicating that there is only a 4.1% increase in medical care cost. The adjusted budget is \$28,375,070.

Motion made by Jack Kiley that the Board of Education budget \$28,148,793. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Jack explained that this is \$1,000,000 from last year. They had originally looked for over \$400,000 for the year and their total increase was 4.1%. \$28,148,793 does not cover their whole request. The reduction is \$226,277. He noted that their fixed cost on their budget would be 3.4%. He commented that he feels they can find the funding within their budget to run the all day kindergarten program if they want to. Jack commented that there should be savings of bus cost if all day Kindergarten program is in place. Lila noted that she does not see how they can make it work. She also said Jack has worked with the Board of Education and knows their budget better than anyone.

He spoke of the teachers', supervisors', para-professionals' and custodians' contracts and the attempt to keep costs controlled over the next three years.

Dick asked what the mill rate would be considering what the Board has approved so far. Jim reviewed the figures before changes were made tonight and noted that the municipal budget was up \$102,000. With the reduction of \$109,119 from tonight's meeting it shows that the budget is lower than last year (but the Board has not reviewed the entire budget). Jack noted that Revenue needs to be reviewed again also. Capital Plan, road improvement project, Emergency Services have not been reviewed.

Bob DeBisschop commented on the Board of Education budget. He stated that if you take the \$970,000 would match keeping the program at current level with contract increases. Take \$173,000 for medical readjustment out it would bring you down to \$800,000 for keeping the program level. If you add \$291,000 which is the request for full day Kindergarten it would get us to \$1,090,000. He noted that would be a way to send to a budget to the public in a way that they would understand they are voting on a budget that includes the cost of full day Kindergarten.

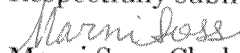
Jim Hliva added that all these adjustments, if adopted, will make the mill rate 25.54.

The Board agreed that they will have an additional meeting next week.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Lila Ferrillo at 9:30 p.m. This was seconded by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, subject to approval


Marni Soss, Clerk

14 APR 9 PM 4:24
TOWN OF STAMFORD, CT
Marni Soss
TOWN CLERK