

MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – OXFORD TOWN HALL
APRIL 9, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Chairman Kiley suggested that the road improvement project be reviewed. He noted that Wayne Watt has a list of roads to be improved that are prioritized by importance of need for repair. The budget of \$743,000 will be used. Tom noted that the public needs a list of what roads are to be improved with the proposed budget. Jack noted he will ask Wayne for the information.

Board members discussed the mill rate as it stands with decisions that have been made so far. He noted that Board of Education, Capital Projects including road improvement project, Ambulance Association and Finance Contingency have not been voted on.

Board of Education was discussed. Dick noted that \$1.4 was requested and noted the increase is over last year's request. He noted that the schools are proposing to add a social worker when enrollment is down in the lower grades, which is hard to understand.

Jack noted that he spoke to the Superintendent and Business Director and they claim they would have an increase of 3.4% over last year's budget to just maintain everything. There was an increase of \$600,000 last year. Nancy commented that there was a 0% increase for teachers and a very low step increase for others. Jack spoke about the Board of Education budget. He compared the budget from last year, the requested increase for next year (which the Board of Education claims includes the cost of the proposed full day Kindergarten program) and noted that an increase of \$773,723 should be enough.

Nancy noted that she could not support a budget that does not give the people of the Town a choice to vote for full day Kindergarten. The Board of Finance should not put a budget out that does not include full day Kindergarten.

Lila Ferrillo arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Lila spoke about the budget and noted that paraprofessionals were taken out. She noted that those people will have to be brought back in if full day Kindergarten is implemented. The Board of Education knows where the funding will come from. She noted that the Board of Finance needs to give them a budget that will be passed by the townspeople.

Nancy noted that Lila's assumption that more paraprofessionals will be needed if a full day Kindergarten program is implemented is unsubstantiated.

Jack noted that the Board should move onto discussion of Ambulance at this point.

Ambulance

He noted that the department budget request was \$266,519 and the Selectmen proposed \$208,719. He noted that the workers compensation for the department is \$29,406 which makes the budget \$238,000.

Motion to approve Ambulance Corporation budget of \$238,000 made by Nancy Schmitt. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Contracted Services-CMED was discussed. Jim noted he has an adjusted figure from the regional dispatch center.

Amended Motion made by Tom Kelly to approve Contracted Services-CMED of \$18,682 and the total budget of \$211,482. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Contracted services-labor was discussed. Jack noted that Jim was asked to look at seven other surrounding towns for costs and revenues to see how they compare to Oxford. Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Contingency

Tom Kelly moved to remove the item from the table. Second by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion made by Tom Kelly to approve \$200,000 for Finance Contingency. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Lila noted that union contracts are not settled. Nancy noted \$200,000 or less is sufficient. Vote: (3) Ayes – Tom Kelly, Nancy Schmitt, Dick Burke (2) Nays – Lila Ferrillo and Jack Kiley. Motion passes.

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

Capital projects

Motion made by Lila Ferrillo to move \$634,105 out of Surplus to pay for the Capital Projects. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Nancy asked if leases are included. Leasing and items included was discussed. Surplus was discussed. Jack noted that surplus is above the required 10%. The excess can be used toward the Capital plan. Dick and Lila agreed with the concept. Lila commented that Public Works needs new vehicles. First Selectman Temple noted that he prefers the concept of leasing for five years. Nancy noted she has no problem with using the surplus. She noted that many needs have been put aside each year. She noted that some essential items should be leased when interest rates are low. Jack commented that surplus would be used first and the Board did not say that they would get rid of the other requests. He noted monies from the books being closed for the high school and a bond will retire next year. He noted that we need to get the budget done first and look at financing some capital items once that is complete. Nancy noted that the purchase of an ambulance is not on the current Capital projects list. Lila commented that the Board has sent the Selectmen letters reminding them that they agreed to purchase an ambulance to be purchased in the current year with funds from the Quaker Farms School oil remediation case. The Selectmen have not forwarded approval. Discussion ensued of purchasing ambulance in this budget and waiting a year to purchase the pay loader for public works. Discussion ensued about purchasing 2 police vehicles.

*Nancy Schmitt and First Selectman Temple
excused themselves from the meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

Discussion continued about using surplus for an ambulance, Public Works vehicles and Police vehicles.

*Nancy Schmitt and First Selectman Temple
returned to the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

Amended Motion made by Lila Ferrillo to move \$706,342 from Surplus to pay for two 7 yd. trucks with plow and sander, one 4x4 truck with plow and sander, one ambulance and two police cars. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: This does not include the pay loader for Public Works. The police cars include new docking stations. Tom commented that the police vehicles should be State standard vehicles. Lila noted that the State is not purchasing the Ford Taurus any longer. Nancy noted that she is in favor of this motion and would like to see the other vehicles leased. Vote: (3) Ayes (2) Nay by Tom Kelly and Jack Kiley. Motion passes.

Motion made by Nancy Schmitt to increase Revenue in the amount of \$706,342. Second by Jack Kiley. Vote: (4) Ayes (1) Nay by Tom Kelly. Motion passes.

The request for a new pumper by the Fire Department was discussed. Jim consulted with Scott Pelletier who indicated that the Fire Department has four pumpers (ages: 24 years old, 26 years old, 15 years old and one new pumper).

Discussion ensued about the need for a boiler at Center School for \$95,000 and repair of boiler at Quaker Farms School for \$20,000.

Mill rate was discussed considering approved items from this meeting.

LoCip funds were discussed. Jim noted there is \$100,000 in budget for road paving that has not been spent yet. First Selectman Temple noted that the funds will go into fields at Tetlak Park. Lila noted that the townspeople approved the dollars at the last budget hearing toward roads. Jack commented that he agreed that the agreement was that the funds would go toward roads. First Selectman Temple denied the claim. He noted it will go into fields at Tetlak Park to benefit the youth.

First Selectman Temple excused himself from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Motion to remove funds from the Capital plan for Great Oak Gardens in the amount of \$25,000 made by Dick Burke. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Vote: (3) Ayes (2) Nays by Nancy Schmitt and Tom Kelly. Motion passes.

Motion to remove funds from the Capital plan for Civil Defense Storage Facility in the amount of \$25,000 made by Lila Ferrillo. Second by Tom Kelly. (4) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Mill rate was discussed considering approved items from this meeting.

Discussion of \$900,000 for Quaker Farms School roof ensued. Board members agreed this needs to be a separate item when voted on that is outside the currently proposed budget.

Collection of Revenue was discussed. Chairman Kiley indicated that his goal is to keep the mill rate under 26 mills. Discussion of revenue items that can be leased ensued. Lila noted that the Fire Department pumper that has been requested has to wait until next year. The next special budget meeting was set for 4/16/14 at 6:30 p.m.


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Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Kelly at 9:39 p.m. This was seconded by Dick Burke.
Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, subject to approval


Marni Soss, Board of Finance Clerk

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TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK