

MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – OXFORD TOWN HALL
APRIL 16, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Kiley at 6:36 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, Robert DeBisschop. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director.

Motion: Tom Kelly moved to approve \$38,820 (instead of 23,334) for Police radios. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: This is so all radios that were requested will be purchased in the same year. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion: Tom Kelly moved to approve \$52,405 for Police cameras. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Discussion: Tom noted that the Board was informed that the Police Department are requesting the cameras so that they have video and audio recordings of what transpires while officers are on duty. This will protect the officers and public and answer any questions that arise. Nancy asked what costs have been incurred by the Town to litigate or otherwise talk about things that happen with the police. Jack noted that he is aware of one issue that has cost the Town litigation and Jim added that the attorney fee cost is approximately \$10,000 for the one case. Lila noted that the Police Department agreed to adjust the request for two vehicles to one vehicle.

Amended Motion made by Tom Kelly to add the expense for the cameras to Capital Projects. Second by Lila Ferrillo. (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Motion made by Lila Ferrillo to reduce the funding for one Police car in the amount of \$39,000. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to adjust Tax Collector part time seasonal budget to \$14,040 made by Dick Burke. Second by Jack Kiley. Discussion: Jim explained that the Tax Collected informed the Board incorrectly as to how many hours the individual can work. Discussion ensued about how many hours the department will need in the latter part of the fiscal year when things are caught up. Lila commented that the department can come to the Board if funding is needed. The Board agreed to keep the funding at \$9,360. Vote: (6) Nays. Motion fails.

Emergency Communication Director

Jim reviewed the history of this department and informed them that last year the Board added funding of \$4,000 for this position and eliminated the funding for Open Burning. In this year's budget there is \$4,000 for Emergency Preparedness director, the Fire Marshal got 3% increase and there is also \$721 in open burning.

Motion made by Tom Kelly to eliminate \$721 for Open Burning Official. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Discussion: Bob noted that funding needs to be in the line item to keep the position open.

Amended Motion made by Tom Kelly to approve \$1 for Open Burning Official. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Grant Writer

Board members discussed the position and the hours that the Grant Writer works. It is understood that the First Selectmen has not reached an agreement with her.

Motion made by Tom Kelly to fund the position at part-time. Second – none. Motion fails.

Jim noted he has final numbers from Office of Policy and Management. There were adjustments in grant figures as follows:

Educational cost sharing adjusted from \$4,672,932 to \$4,677,464

Pupil Transportation adjusted from \$0 to \$37,542

Mashantucket Distribution adjusted from \$10,000 to \$30,661

Revenue sharing for Capital Projects adjusted from \$0 to \$79,296

State funding adjusted from \$5,296,542 to \$5,418,332.

Fire Pumper

Motion made by Lila Ferrillo to have Fire Department pumper wait a year for approval. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Tom Kelly noted that there is a land sale purchase coming up that will give the Town some funds but said he is reluctant to count on the funds until received. Jim noted the check was received. Nancy noted she is an advocate for purchasing the pumper for health and safety reasons. Tom noted they are requesting \$415,000 of \$650,000 and that there is still a deficit. Discussion of use of LoCip funds ensued. Vote: (5) Ayes (1) Nay by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes.

Board of Education

Motion by Nancy Schmitt that Board of Education be funded at \$1,100,000 more than the current budget. Second by Bob DeBisschop. Discussion: Jack commented that the Board had suggested that \$1,000,000 be the increase. Lila asked if Jack had the opportunity to ask Rosemary if she could find savings anywhere and he answered that she informed him there were no savings in the area of retirement or bussing. Lila asked if there is going to be a surplus this year and Jim commented that Rosemary said it is running very tight. Dick noted there was a surplus last year. Jim noted there was \$170,000 surplus for operations. Nancy noted if we don't fund this budget at a reasonable amount, this Board is indeed denying the townspeople the right to vote on whether or not full day Kindergarten is part of the educational process and she believes that should not happen and that she believes \$1,000,000 will not give this option. Tom noted it is not for us to decide how the funds are spent but the funding level. He asked her not to accuse anyone on the Board of not funding anything on the Board of Education. They have full capability to fund whatever they want because they have full control of their dollars. Nancy noted that there are certain levels of funding that allow for certain things to be funded or not.

Lila commented that they have not spoken about programs within the Board of Education. Jack noted that if the budget fails at referendum the Board will be forced to cut funds in this budget to the point that we will be insured that it will pass the second time at referendum. Dick commented to Nancy that her motion was to increase the budget by \$1,100,000 and that he found it interesting that she did not use the figure that the Board of Education claimed they need to fund full day Kindergarten. Nancy noted that \$1,100,000 was a compromise. Lila asked how this affects the mill rate. Jim noted the rate will be 25.62. Jack noted the budget will be \$28,248,793 if this motion passes. Vote: (4) Ayes (2) Nays by Jack Kiley and Tom Kelly. Motion passes.

Dick commented that the Board voted on the Ambulance Association but asked that the Board revisit the budget. Jack commented it was already voted on. Jim noted Robert's Rules says the person who made the Motion and person who made a second to the motion can reconsider. Dick asked that the Board review the email that Jerry Schwab forwarded to them and that they think a bit deeper on the matter. Jack noted that the Contracts show that the Board of Finance has not been doing their due diligence.

Jim reviewed the budgets as follows:


Board of Education	\$28,248,793
Municipal	\$14,989,596
Capital & nonrecurring	\$734,000
Total:	\$43,972,389
Net of all other revenues - mill rate 25.62 mills	

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dick Burke at 7:35 p.m. This was seconded by Nancy Schmitt. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, subject to approval


Marni Soss, Board of Finance Clerk

14 APR 21 PM 4:16
TOWN OF WEST
ORD, CT

TOWN CLERK