

MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – OXFORD TOWN HALL
MAY 19, 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, Robert DeBisschop. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director.

Chairman Kiley noted that the purpose of the meeting is to review and vote on the FY 2014-2015 Municipal and Board of Education budgets that were rejected by the voters at a referendum on May 13, 2014.

Motion made by Lila Ferrillo to reduce the amount that the Board of Education is requesting for a budget by \$500,000. This was seconded by Jack Kiley. Discussion: Nancy noted she would not accept this. She feels that it is putting the education system in the dark ages and is ridiculous. Jack noted that the Board of Education requested that the proposed budget be sent to the people to vote on it and it was overwhelmingly rejected. Nancy commented that we cut the budget before it was sent to the people for a vote. Lila noted that we got new numbers on insurance which changed the budget. Dick noted that enrollment is down but costs continue to rise. He would expect that their baseline would adjust due to declining enrollment but we have not seen that and he questioned the point. Nancy noted one staff position was adjusted. Dick noted that there is a 5.5% increase annually over the last ten years. The adjusted figure if this motion passes would make the Board of Education budget \$27,648,793. Dick noted that Newtown has decreased enrollment and their budget had no increase this year. He commented that we are still giving them \$500,000. Vote: (4) Ayes (2) Nays by Nancy Schmitt and Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes.

First Selectman Temple attended this portion of the meeting.

Jack noted that the next item to discuss on the municipal side is the Capital budget. He reviewed all the items and figures with the Board.

Motion made by Jack Kiley to purchase the three Public Works vehicles in the amount of \$458,000 by financing for five years instead of paying with surplus. This was seconded by Nancy Schmitt. Discussion: First Selectman Temple spoke of economic development and commented that financing the needs for Public Works makes sense and he feels that we should do this to ease the burden from the taxpayers. Lila spoke about funds that were recently received by the Town that will allow us to buy the Public Works vehicle without financing. Nancy noted that financing makes sense at this time. The notes can be paid off if funds are received. Dick commented that contractual spending is affected by notes, which he is not in favor of. Jack commented that he is concerned with using surplus to purchase the vehicles because we are very close to the required 10% surplus. He commented that he agrees that we should consider paying off the note if surplus grows during the year. Dick commented that he agrees on a short term basis that financing is acceptable but not for the future. The Town has

other needs that would be acceptable to finance. Vote: (4) Ayes: Nancy Schmitt, Jack Kiley, Dick Burke, Tom Kelly (2) Nays – Lila Ferrillo and Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes.

Nancy Schmitt excused herself from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Motion made by Jack Kiley to reduce Capital projects by \$25,000 for dugouts at Oxford High School. Second by Tom Kelly. Discussion: Dick commented that we just decrease the Board of Education budget and now this is an additional cut. Tom noted that the dugouts would be nice to have this year but it can't be done now. We were told by the people that the budget is too high. He noted it's possible to use anticipated surplus for this project in the future. Motion passes unanimously.

Tom Kelly asked First Selectmen Temple if a resolution with the Grant Writer was made. Tom was told no. Tom noted that an adjustment could be made to the budget in anticipation of the resolution being made. First Selectman Temple suggested that \$10,000 be cut and that he would work on the resolution. Tom asked if setting the hours for the Grant Writer at half time would be fine. First Selectman Temple commented that he would rather leave the budget and return the money later if it is not needed.

Motion to reduce the Public Works summer wages budget by \$8,000 made by Tom Kelly. Second by Lila Ferrillo. Discussion: Public Works agreed that if something has to be reduced this will have to be fine. First Selectmen Temple noted the workers work hard and do a good job. They are needed in the summer to fill in for those on vacation for some jobs. Vote: (4) Ayes (1) Nay by Dick Burke. Motion passes.

Motion to remove \$10,000 from the Grant Writer wages made by Tom Kelly. Second by Dick Burke. Discussion: Dick asked where the information came from that Kathleen wants to work part-time. First Selectman Temple noted that she told him this quite a while ago. The reason is that she has a business and is busy there. First Selectman Temple noted that if she does go part-time that when we need her services that we have her. Dick noted that the budget deliberations began in the beginning of March and now it is mid-May. There was plenty of time to come to an agreement with her. First Selectman Temple noted that funds that are not needed will be returned. Tom suggested that the position be set at 19.5 hours and not benefits. Tom noted that we should fund the position at this level in anticipation of a discussion with her by the First Selectmen. Lila commented that she has a business and needs the time there. Jim Hliva reviewed the figures with the Board members.

Amended Motion made by Tom Kelly to reduce the Grant Writer salary to \$32,682 including a reduction of the health insurance payment in lieu of the pension and FICA. This was seconded by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Lila suggested that non-union personnel pay toward their cost for medical benefits. Lila noted that union employees pay 7% toward the cost and Board of Education employees pay 14% of toward the cost. Jack noted that if we have them pay 7% toward the cost and give them a 3% increase there is no affect.

is willing to have the Board of Selectmen consider this. He commented that elected officials would not be part of the group that may be affected by this.

Motion made by Lila Ferrillo that when the union contracts are finished that the non-union employees do not get a raise. No second was made to the Motion.

Motion made by Tom Kelly to reduce Drug Testing from \$1,600 to \$1,100, Life Insurance reduced from \$30,060 to \$18,579 and Employee Benefits reduced from \$975,432 to \$974,002. This was seconded by Dick Burke. Motion passes unanimously.

Jim noted that these changes would bring the mill rate to 24.87 which is a .12 mill increase.

Motion made by Bob DeBisschop to move the proposed budgets to Town Meeting. Second by Tom Kelly. Motion passes unanimously.


Jim noted that the Town Meeting will be May 20, 2014 and the referendum will be June 3, 2014.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Kelly at 8:42 p.m. This was seconded by Lila Ferrillo. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, subject to approval


Marni Soss, Board of Finance Clerk

14 MAY 28 PM 4:34
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK