

MINUTES  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 11, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Kiley at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

The first item discussed was Revenue. Jim noted that if revenue, expenditures and department requests were approved as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, there would be a mill rate increase of 5.41%.

Proposal for grant in lieu of tax was discussed. Proposed elderly circuit breaker was discussed. These figures were received from the government in the current year and will be budgeted for the next fiscal year. Other items budgeted and discussed are veteran reimbursement, town aid roads, grant in lieu-boats, local capital improvement, education cost sharing, circuit court, all other, Mashantucket distribution.

Jim noted that \$100,000 was put into LoCip for roads which was not spent. There is nothing proposed from LoCip in the budget. Lila noted that it was agreed to by the people and the \$100,000 should be spent. Tom asked if the funds were allocated in the budget process last year and he was told yes. Tom asked how much is allocated to be spent on roads this year and he was told \$734,000. Tom asked for confirmation that there is a plan to spend the \$100,000 in this budget and he was told no.

Also discussed was education and cost sharing, education grants, pupil transportation, revenue sharing. Jim noted that the State did not make the distribution of what was remaining in the fund last year and a check was received for this in the current year which is shown as revenue that was not budgeted. Nothing will be budgeted next year. Also discussed was circuit court, all other revenue, Mashantucket distribution, disability exemption. Investments were discussed and Jim noted that rates are down from last year.

Revenue from Town Clerk, building permits, planning & zoning and WPCA was discussed. Sewer user fees, telecommunications fees, aircraft registrations, library fees, miscellaneous fees (pistol permits, recycling permits and other fees). Jack asked what makes up most of the miscellaneous fees and Jim will research this and report back to the Board. Insurance claims, telecommunication site leases (two cell towers) were discussed. Police private duty and administrative fees was discussed.

*First Selectman Temple attended the meeting commencing at 6:35 p.m.*

Employee health benefits co-pay was discussed. It was noted that union employees pay a portion of the cost for health care and non union employees and Public Works employees do not pay this. Tom asked what the rate that union employees pay and Jim answered that it is approximately five or six percent. Jack reviewed the fees that Board of Education employees are paying toward healthcare. Tom Kelly noted that the non union employees receive the same

raises that union employees receive and asked First Selectman Temple why non union employees are not paying toward healthcare like union employees. First Selectman Temple noted that non union employees have not consistently received the same raises and that the Board of Selectman is looking into the matter of them paying into healthcare costs.

Taxes-supplemental motor vehicles, delinquent tax collections, incremental tax collections, interest and liens, emergency services/volunteer tax abatements and motor vehicle fees was discussed.

Other departments reviewed were:

Charter revision – no budget.

Civic Activities – No change in budget that was adopted in current year and the Selectman proposed budget for the new year.

Debt service interest – Jim noted that there is a breakdown shown of all existing debt. The proposed interest to be paid for the new budget is lower than the current year. He noted that proposed leases are not in this budget (they are in the proposed capital plan).

Debt service principal was discussed.

Ethics Commission – Budget contains funds for a clerk if needed.

Finance Department – Jim reviewed this budget.

Contracted services audit budget has increased. Jim noted that the new Charter says that every third year a detailed audit of the Tax Collector's office has to be done. This will be due in the new budget year. Discussion ensued as to the definition of a detailed audit. The budget request for financing costs has increased. Jim reviewed the Board of Education projects that need to be closed which will allow us to get rid of the \$6 Million of Notes that are on the books. Budget for GasB 45 Actuarial study was lowered.

Board of Finance Clerk – Rate of pay for the Clerk was discussed. The rate of pay was not adjusted in the last fiscal year for this position. The Selectmen recently increased all other clerk's rates to be the same, but this rate of pay stayed the same. Board members agreed that the Board of Selectman should be made aware that this position is due for a raise.

*Nancy Schmitt and Tom Kelly excused themselves from the meeting at 7:10 p.m.*

Finance Contingency – Jim noted that he put an additional \$30,000 in for retirement benefits. He indicated that the Board previously spoke about the need for a disability policy. The Selectman removed the funding.

*Tom Kelly returned to the meeting at 7:20 p.m.*

Discussion continued about funding in Finance Contingency. Suggestion was made that the additional \$30,000 should be in Employee Benefits. Tom noted that the \$30,000 should be taken out of Finance Contingency.

Health and Social Services – Wages for coordinator was not increased for the current fiscal year and the Board of Selectmen will be informed that a wage increase is due.

Housing Authority - The budget is for the clerk for meeting minutes and has not changed.

Insurance – Jim noted that he recently got information about health insurance rates from the State but needs further information before presenting to the Board.

Lake Housatonic – The budget increased due to purchase of new boat.

Lake Zoar Authority – Jim indicated that we received a distribution because there was excess funds. The budget is lower than last year.

Long Range Planning has been inactive and has no budget.

Pomperaug Health – The budget is up from what was approved last year. Board members want a representative to speak to them at a later meeting.

Probate Court – The budget is lower than last year.

Street lighting – The budget is up a small amount.

Treasurer – The budget for the Assistant Treasurer has increased. The duties of this position were discussed.

Water Hydrant Charges – The fee is for hydrants on public streets and the budget has increased.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn made by Tom Kelly at 7:45 p.m. This was seconded by Bob DeBisschop. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, subject to approval

*Marni Soss*  
Marni Soss, Clerk

14 MAR 20 PM 3:31  
TOWN OF DAFORD, CT  
*Margaret A. Clark*  
TOWN CLERK