

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF FINANCE – 2017/2018 BUDGET REVIEW  
OXFORD TOWN HALL  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairman Jack Kiley; Tom Kelly; Lila Ferrillo; Sue Arpin; Robert DeBisschop; Dana Flach. Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director.

Also present: Town Attorney Kevin Condon; First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Jeff Haney and Selectman Kathy Johnson.

The Special Meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jack Kiley.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2017-2018 budget and make any adjustments based on information from the Public Hearing as needed. Attorney Condon and Mr. Temple will present the power plant proposal.

Mr. Temple began by saying he would like to see the taxes decrease by two mils. Mr. Temple appeared before the Appropriations Committee. The State reduced funding to the Town of Oxford by 76%, the highest in the state, because of a 25% surplus in the Town budget. He believes some of that surplus can be used to pay off three Public Works trucks and a fire engine. The tax reduction is contingent on the power plant contract. Two things that people look for in town are a stable workforce and stable/low taxes.

Mr. Temple briefly discussed the Capital Expenditures. He does not agree with everything in the Capital Budget. The major education projects are fixing the issues with the high school and parking area at Great Oak MS and Quaker Farms.

Mr. Temple signed a grant to have the State pay to redo Riggs Street. The agreement was worded "for road improvements to the Town of Oxford", which will include other roads such as Whitegate, Jackson Cove, Maple Tree Hill and Pisgah.

Another project is the possible purchase of Colonial Tavern, to be used as a recreational facility for the Town. It will also allow for a soccer field.

Mr. Kiley clarified that the power plant will provide the Town with an additional \$6.2MM (\$5MM plus \$1.2MM). The \$1.2MM will be up front; to increase to \$1.4MM will come in increments of \$200,000 for next seven years. Ms. Ferrillo asked what amount the Town will receive annually after this upfront payout. She believes that it will be approximately \$2.5MM minimum. Mr. Condon stated that there is a sliding scale. Mr. Hliva said that currently the Town receives two payments of \$1,275,000 for a total of \$2,550,000. This will increase to \$3.8MM every six months.

It would be most agreeable to have the referendum part of the budget process on May 11, 2017. With taxes going down presumably it would be difficult for people to vote against the

referendum. Mr. Kiley pointed out that the most important thing to understand is that without the power plant, taxes would not be going down. They most likely would be increasing.

Attorney Condon and the Board of Selectmen left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

A brief discussion ensued among the Board of Finance members with regard to the advantage of the power plant contract and the advantages of receiving monies from same which lead to lower taxes. If for whatever reason the power plant falls short, all the lower taxes will not happen.

Mr. Kelly asked about status of short term leases. Mr. Hliva said the amount in round figures total outstanding is \$900,000. There is \$325,000 in next year's budget.

Mr. Ferrillo recommended putting \$30,000 back into the Emergency Medical Services budget for a part-time training officer. The request was for \$52,000. She believes a training officer is necessary.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the BOF members regarding the status, personnel and operation of the Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Kiley spoke with regard to salaries of the employees of Emergency Medical Services. Ms. Flach commented on how the EMS was supposed to be self-funding and provide their own equipment. They are not self-supportive when the Town continues to fund them and buy equipment.

Ms. Ferrillo made a Motion to put \$30,000 back into the EMS budget for the training officer. Ms. Arpin seconded the Motion. A vote was taken.

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
	Tom Kelly	
Lila Ferrillo	Jack Kiley	
Bob DeBisschop	Dana Flach	
Sue Arpin		

The vote is a tie. The Motion does not pass.

Ms. Ferrillo asked how much money needs to come out of General Fund to reduce the mil rate. Mr. Kiley said to cover an even 2 mil reduction approximately \$1.4MM will come out. Mr. Hliva said a total of \$6.1MM will have to come out. The balance left in General Fund would be just about \$5MM (10%). June 30, 2017 the Town will receive \$5MM; July 1, 2017 the Town will receive \$1.275MM; January 2018 the Town will receive \$1.425MM.

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Ms. Ferrillo made a Motion to add an additional \$1.4MM to \$4.7MM out of General Fund to reach a 2 mil decrease in the budget, bringing the total mil rate to 22.21 mils. Ms. Arpin seconded Motion. A vote is taken.

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tom Kelly		
Lila Ferrillo		
Jack Kiley		
Bob DeBisschop		
Dana Flach		
Sue Arpin		

All in favor. Motion passes.

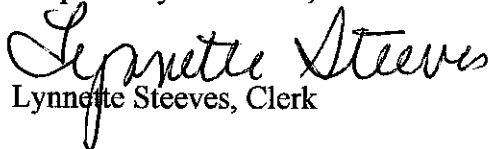
Ms. Flach raised the question regarding the reasoning behind the purchase of Ford Explorers for the police department.

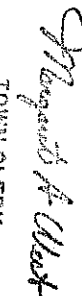
Mr. Hliva asked the Board of Finance how many questions are going on the ballot. The response was four questions: Capital Non-Recurring; Roads; Municipal; and Board of Education. He said he will word the question on the ballot as follows: Should the Town of Oxford approve the funding of \$2.3MM for capital improvements?

Mr. Kiley asked Mr. Hliva to immediately notify the Town Clerk that a Town Meeting will be held on May 1, 2017.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Ferrillo made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Kelly seconded the Motion. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lynette Steeves, Clerk

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TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
  
TOWN CLERK