

Board of Finance Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
Town Hall Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

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COLCHESTER, CT

2015 JAN 26 AM 11:15

Members Present Chairman Rob Tarlov, Art Shilosky, Tom Kane, Rob Esteve

Members Absent: John Ringo, James McNair

Others Present: First Selectman Stan Soby, CFO Maggie Cosgrove, Board of Education Liaison Brad Bernier, Chief Walter Cox, Deputy Chief Don Lee, Tax Collector Don Philips, Town Clerk Gayle Furman, Land Trust Members Lisa Hageman and Leslie Curtis, Citizen Gary Sidell, Nick Reid, Tim Joseph

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** T. Kane motioned to move item 6a) to precede item 5, seconded by A. Shilosky. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7, 2015:**
T. Kane motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2015 regular meeting, seconded by A. Shilosky. R. Esteve asked the minutes be amended for item 6. sentence 3 to read: *If the calculation resulted in a decrease over the current year's budgeted amount, the BOF recommendation would be for it to be used towards a one time only expense for that year to help limit year to year fluctuations in funding requirements.* T. Kane withdrew his original motion and motioned to approve the January 7, 2015 minutes with the amendment, seconded by A. Shilosky. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None
- **6. a) **Youth & Social Services:** V. Geato gave presentation which included the need for additional Social Services Coordinator hours due to the large increase in number of citizens needing services and an increase in hours to cover a second summer lunch site for teens.
5. **COLCHESTER LAND TRUST:** L. Curtis and L. Hageman spoke about the importance of setting money aside for the purchase of open space when opportunities arise. There was nothing in the budget survey regarding acquiring open space.
6. **BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR DEPARTMENT LONG TERM NEEDS AND ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES:**
 - a) **Youth & Social Services:** Item moved.
 - b) **Fire Department:** Chief Cox gave a presentation which included that JNL Associates has been hired to complete the strategic plan. His priorities for next year's budget will be personal protective gear, training, and ambulance incentive programs.
 - c) **Town Clerk :** G. Furman gave a presentation that included anticipated expenses and revenue for 2015/2016. She also discussed the need for additional staffing and a

proposed solution which would include a shared floater with the Tax Collector for a total of 17.5 hours a week.

- d) **Tax Collector:** D. Philips gave a presentation which included the need for the shared floater in the Tax Collector's office.
- e) **Senior Services:** Will be done at a later time.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a) **Finance Department:** Barry Bernable of Phoenix Advisors has been hired as the Financial Advisor.
- b) **Tax Collector – Reports and Discussion:** Arrangements have been made with one of the largest escrow banks to have taxes paid through wire transfer, allowing the money to be deposited into our accounts immediately. Policies and procedures were discussed with town attorney regarding foreclosures. Online payment process has not started yet.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None

9. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

- a) **Transfer Requests:** None
- b) **First Selectman's Update:** Another session of Government 101 will begin soon. He will be attending a training at the Capital in Washington D.C. The Mill project is proceeding. Attended the Electric Boat Legislative breakfast.

10. LIAISON REPORTS:

T. Kane reported the new zoning regulations have been approved. A. Shilosky reported that the Building Committee had a presentation by NESDEC regarding projected enrollment. They will be deciding on an option and presenting it at the tri-board meeting. R. Esteve reported that the group working on the BOE strategic plan met with 20 different organizations and groups and are compiling the information.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Tri-Board meeting for February 5th at 6:00 p.m. -**
- b) **Survey Discussion - presenting results:** Chairman Tarlov read a letter submitted by James McNair regarding the budget survey. (See attached)
- c) **Action on Subcommittee Recommendations**
 - i. **March and April Budget Communications and Presentation:** Members agreed the presentations should be videoed and available on the website.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Budget Review and 2014-2015 Planning Objectives -updates:** None
- b) **Status of Review of Capital Improvement Plan - Equipment:** None

c) Capital Improvement Plan - Facilities: None

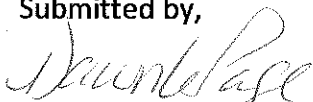
d) Elected Officials/Nonunion Employees - Compensation Plan: First Selectman Soby share a policy draft where nonunion and elected officials would receive an annual salary/wage increase equal to the average increase computed from all contracts in effect at the time.

13. UPDATE ON POCD - Adam Turner: A copy of the POCD was given to each member. The consultant helping with the plan will need to meet with BOF to discuss the fiscal component.

14. CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

15. ADJOURNMENT: R. Esteve motioned to adjourn, seconded by T. Kane . Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tarlov adjourned the meeting at 9:40pm.

Submitted by,



Dawn LePage, Clerk

Rob Tarlov

Subject: FW: as homer simpson would say

From: jmcnair3@comcast.net [mailto:jmcnair3@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2015 4:39 PM

To: Tarlov, Rob

Subject: as homer simpson would say

Rob,

Please enter the following comment into the record.

Last year, through the Chair, access was given to Board of Finance members and response information was made public at BoF meetings prior to the end of the survey. The Board also controlled how the results were made public, including the full database all all responses.

This year, it is no longer clear to me who has the final authority over this year's Budget survey. I strongly urge the full Board to go on record how the final results will be released, how and when. If in fact others outside the Board of Finance, are concerned about the integrity of the process and who has access to the information before Feb 2nd, they should be equally concerned about full transparency. Once the survey is done, a downloadable PDF of the results and all comments should be immediately posted on the Town website. Also, a notice that the full database of all responses is public record available to any for asking. And lastly, the Chairman of the Board of Finance be able immediately to share information with any and all BoF members for review.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. McNair III