**Approved Minutes**

**Present**: Ted Turner, Dean Markham, Marc Lambert, Alan Hurst, Lori Wilcox and Mary Ann Dostaler

**Not Present:** David Monighetti

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery M. Jylkka: Director of Finance

**1-2. Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Public Remarks:**

**Joe Carbonell – 3 Mallard Cove:** Mr. Carbonell stated that he felt the BOF did a good job the first budget and was unhappy to discover, after talking to some people, that there really is “a group that just votes no every referendum”. He also asked that nothing get cut from the Lake Commission line items in the Budget.

**Barbara Moore – 7 Overlook Road:** As Town Council Chair, Ms. Moore thanked the Board for meeting on such short notice and on a non-traditional meeting night (Friday).

**Kyle Dostaler – 56 William Drive:** Mr. Dostaler stated that he though the proposed budget was fantastic until the BoF got their hands on it. He feels it was a mistake to add the $750,000 technology initiative for education into Capital because it became part of the discussion, and in many’s eye, part of the budget (i.e. impact to the budget # and the % of increase to the mill rate). He also stated that removing it would make it much easier and more likely that the budget will pass the second time around.

**Valerie Steiner – 21 Curry Lane:** Ms. Steiner also felt that the first budget that went to Referendum was good but now there needs to be cuts and, in her eyes, education is always the go-to when looking for cuts. She went on to say we are already at a deficit when it comes to education and that if education is cut, other areas should be cut too.

**Don Coolican – 18 West Lane:** Mr. Coolican, who recently stepped down from the BoF, stated that education has never been cut; there is an increase every year. He went on to say that there were 350 less students last year and stated that we have fewer kids and are spending a lot more $$.

Ms. Dostaler also submitted, and made part of these minutes, 14 emails sent to her from residents that support the budget (as a whole) and ask for no significant changes /only minimal cuts this second time around. Email submissions were from:

1. **Nancy & Mark Kohler – 31 Daniel Street**
2. **Stuart Winquist – 11 S. Main Street**
3. **Linda Dewhurst – 20 Tarragon Drive**
4. **Carla Sylvester – 38 N. Maple Street**
5. **Kate Adams – 21 N. Cone Road**
6. **Laureen Coppolelli – 6 Michael Drive**
7. **Dave & Karen Terry – 37 Daniel Street**
8. **Mimi Jones – 18 Mallard Cove**
9. **Kimberly Kieran – 4 Childs Road**
10. **Tania Sones – 17 Curry Lane**
11. **Jeff Carlson – 10 Mary Ann Drive**
12. **Patty Karabetsos – 19 Mathieu Lane**
13. **Emily Cronin – 24 Abbey Road**
14. **Audrey Stein – 124 Main Street**

**4. Discuss and Approve 2015-2016 Budget (2nd Referendum) for Town Council**

Mr. Markham made a motion that ***“the Board of Finance adopt the budget as previously approved by the Town Council and as voted on in the May 5, 2015 Referendum with the following amendment:***

* ***A reduction of the Board of Education budget line item by $200,000 to reflect an adjusted total line item of $29,022,785***

***The adjusted Total Expenditures budget would be $41,506,395.”***

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst. Mr. Jylkka verified that if the motion passed, this reduction would result in a 1.07 Mill Rate Increase. Discussion followed where each Board Member provided comment:

**Mr. Lambert:** Stated the problem with the $200,000 being the only cut is that it does not get the mill increase below 1 mill, which right or wrong, the voters look at. He went on to say, with respect to the public comments, he feels the $69,511 for the Lake could be removed and acted on as a special request once we know if we are or are not getting the Grant. He also suggested that the $30,000 that was moved from Police OT to Contingency could be removed. Those 2 additional cuts are really the only other viable options he feels could be cut and would bring the overall reduction closer to $300,000 and bring the mill rate increase just under 1 Mill. He closed by stating that they need to put forth a Budget that we think will pass otherwise we are throwing more money away through having to conduct multiple referendums.

In response to Ms. Dostaler’s comment on Capital below, Mr. Lambert stated that he may have a myopic view because he is an accountant but he does not see the benefit in removing the $750,000 since it does not impact this budget’s dollar amount nor mill increase percentage and it would need to go through the BoF and Town Council again before any money was actually spent.

**Mr. Hurst:** Acknowledged that there were cuts in most areas, except education, the first time around. He also acknowledged that there is obvious interest in the budget this year given the higher than normal turnout. He then reiterated that he does not believe that the budget should be backed into from a mill rate but that the mill rate is the result of the budget. He closed by stating that he feels the $200,000 cut, along with the cuts that occurred resulting in the budget voted down on May 5th, is enough to get the budget passed.

**Ms. Wilcox:** Stated that, as a Registrar that worked the Polls on May 5th, she does not look at it as “only 39” votes. She feels there may have been some steering of people that may not have planned to vote. She also feels that the Board of Education gets by each year with some cuts. She closed by suggesting that the new police position be removed until the existing openings are filled and by emphasizing the importance of the Lake to the Town (i.e. no cuts should be made to the Lake budget).

**Mr. Markham:** Obviously made the motion for the $200,000 reduction of BoE and while he doesn’t want to see it, he feels it is necessary in order to get a budget passed. He went on to support the $750,000 in Capital (which he was also the motion maker for during initial budget talks) as something that is much needed and supported by many in town. He also voiced his support of the Police Officer position. He then asked for more discussion around Mr. Lambert’s perspective on the Lake Budget. After discussion, he suggested that the Town Council seek out more clarity on the lake plans and timing between now and their Budget Meeting on 5/11/15 and make the decision at that point to retain, reduce or remove that $69,511.

**Chairman Turner:** Stated he would not support any Lake cuts or cuts to Police. He also asked the press in the audience to please be sure to emphasize for readers that the $750,000 does not impact the current year’s mill rate calculation. He will, however, reluctantly support the $200,000 reduction to BoE. Chairman Turner closed by commenting on how the $750,000 will afford the elementary school students the opportunity to close the technology gap they would have today if entering a state-of-the-art High School.

**Ms. Dostaler:** Stated that, similar to Mark, the job of the BoF is to put forth a budget that will pass. She went on to say that she consistently heard comments on 4 specific areas leading up to and at the Polls on May 5th:

1. Education: People voted no because the BoE did not have any cuts
2. Police: People voted no because they don’t think we need more officers
3. Capital: People voted no because of the $750,000 for technology in the schools. The reasoning varied between how it was added and the amount
4. Roads: People voted no because of the cut in the roads budget

Given what she heard, Ms. Dostaler provided the following recommendations.

1. Education: Cut less than $200,000 from BoE
2. Police: Cut the ½ year “new” officer position
3. Capital: Remove the $750,000 from Capital
4. Roads: restore the Road Repairs budget to the originally proposed $500,000

She closed by informing the board that if the motion on the table is voted on as raised and the $750,000 remains (after bypassing the Capital Committee process and irresponsibly selecting a random dollar amount with no concrete plan), Ms. Dostaler stated she would

vote against it. While she will not support the budget at this table, she knows the budget put forth to the voters will never be increased. She will, therefore, vote yes and support whatever budget goes to vote in the second referendum for the sake of the community.

Once all discussion was completed, Chairman Turner verified the motion would move to vote with no amendments and the votes were cast.

**Vote: 4-2 (Ms. Dostaler & Ms. Wilcox). Motion Passed.**

1. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Lambert made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. that was seconded by Mr. Markham.

**Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi

Recording Secretary