

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

The Board of Finance held their regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman John Kortze called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**Present:** John Kortze, Harry Waterbury, James Filan, John Godin, James Filan, Joseph Kearney

**Absent:** Mike Portnoy,

**Also Present:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, Director of Finance Bob Tait, Kathy Hamilton and John Voket

**VOTER COMMENTS:** NONE

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Superintendent's Proposed Education Operational Plan 2015-21016 was received (Attachment A). Mr. Kearney received an e-mail from Mr. Skrzypczek. He had made few suggestions such as outsourcing highway department and things of that nature. This is good to have this kind of dialog.

**MINUTES – Mr. Kearney moved to approve the minutes of the 12/8/14 meeting. Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved..**

**FIRST SELECTMANS REPORT** – Mrs. Llodra provided an update on the status of winter maintenance (Attachment B). They are monitoring this closely particularly because they have changed the salt to sand ratio.

Community Center Project update (Attachment C) – The architect and construction management firms have been selected and they have finalized the donor agreement with GE.

Mrs. Llodra provided a copy of her State of the Town presentation that was given to the Chamber of Commerce (Attachment D).

The Board of Selectman have come to the consensus that it is their opinion the house on Yogananda be demolished. There are two considerations, one for demolition and the second that the deed be identified that should the property be developed, the proceeds are to be used to benefit the victims of Sandy Hook School. This will assure that decision makers 10 years from now will know what the intent was. The decision about disposition will go to the Legislative Council. A Town meeting is not required but Mrs. Llodra will request that one is held.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT** – Mr. Tait reviewed excerpts of Comprehensive Financial Report (Attachment E). He also provided questions asked in advanced by the rating agencies (Attachment F) as well as a Commercial Development Update (Attachment G). A conference call with the rating agency was done by Mr. Tait, Mrs. Llodra and Economic Development Coordinator. Mr. Kearney asked if they should be worried about the water regulations. Mrs. Llodra explained that they should not. They got ahead of themselves by not engaging the public. We have a strong public works director organization which has someone up there all the time

monitoring the conversations. Right now in CT only 25% of the communities are compliant, which Newtown is.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Review of Current Debt Policy – Mr. Tait reviewed the current Debt Policy (Attachment H). Mr. Tait articulated that under Debt Policies, Ratios and Measurements, C can be removed. When you go to Moody's it is US wide and it is hard to see how their data helps us by town. Mr. Kearney asked if we reduce debt services to 9% and we are at 9.5% we could get sited.

Newtown School System Expense Review – There are many moving parts with enrollment and the space needs study. Mr. Godin looked at the costs of the school trying to determine what the savings would be if a school closed (Attachment M). Some of the costs are transferable from one school to another if it should be closed. This was done to start the dialog.

Review of Current Town Financial Statement – Discussed under Finance Director's report.

Mr. Kearney moved to transfer \$49,603 from Contingency to Fees & Professional Services, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved (Attachment I)

Mr. Kearney moved to transfer \$50,000 from Contingency to Selectman Professional Services-Legal, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unamously approved (Attachment I)

Mr. Kearney moved to transfer \$7,000 from Contingency to IT Equipment, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved (Attachment I).

Mr. Kearney moved to transfer \$30,000 from Contingency to IT Software/Hardware Maintenance Fees, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved (Attachment I).

Mr. Kearney moved to transfer \$13,950 from Contingency to various departments Group Insurance, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved (Attachment I).

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Kearney moved to approve the revised 2015 Meeting Schedule, Mr. Waterbury seconded, motion unanimously approved (Attachment J).

BOE Monthly Financial Report (Attachment K) not discussed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mr. Kortze handed out Managing Capital Projects from inception to completion (Attachment L) that was prepared by Mrs. Llodra. He asked the members take a look at it, it will be on the next agenda.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk