

Mr. Tait THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 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, John Godin, Mike Portnoy, Joe Kearney, James Filan

Also Present: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Director of Finance Bob Tait, Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Director of IT Al Miles, Bob Merola, John Voket, Keith Alexander, Ryan Knapp, one member of the public

VOTER COMMENTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Tait supplied a what if scenario for different changes in regards to the budget (Attachment A). Mr. Kortze also received an e-mail from Julia Conlin requesting that the BOE budget move forward without any additional cuts (Attachment B). Mike Solaris also provided detailed work that he had done regarding schools and expenses (Attachment C).

FIRST SELECTMANS REPORT – None

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT – None

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Selectman Budget Presentation – Mrs. Llodra presented the Board of Selectman proposed 2015-2016 budget (Attachment D). The goal for the budget was to continue current level of services, address critical needs with no tax increase and a reduction in mill rate. The critical needs identified are; increasing capital road by \$250,000, adding a support person to the Information Technology Department for \$55,000 and restoring funding to capital non-recurring an additional \$100,000.

Al Miles, IT Director explained the department's mission and the need for additional support. Page 9 of the presentation is a summary of hours required by the IT department to fulfill the needs of the town. They are looking at almost 6300 hours of activity. Currently they have two people working full time which equates to 3600 hours leaving much of the needed work undone. There is a new permit system that will be rolled out giving residents the ability to get a permit on-line. Mrs. Llodra articulated that one of the things they discovered when they did the revalue was that the data wasn't traveling to the Tax Assessor's Department on all occasions because it is all manual. The data needs to be accurate to tax properly.

Fred Hurley, Director of Public Works, explained that going back in history of Capital Road. They tried to get to \$2 million and stay at there. Prior to 09/10 bridges were funded out of the Capital Road budget, now they are funded through the CIP. Page 13 of the presentation shows how many miles is estimated to be complete this budget year, what is currently budgeted for in the proposed 15/16 and how much they could accomplish with an additional \$1 million. Mrs. Llodra articulated that about 5 years ago they started talking about the critical nature of the roads in Lakeview Terrace. We have funded the initiative at \$100,000 per year and continue to do that. Even though they are private roads, there is no association there anymore so there was not commitment that could be reasonably expected by the people living in that area to repair the roads. This has to be a town commitment. Over the next decades of time, we are going to have to apply the same strategy to all of our lake side communities.

Mr. Hurley also discussed energy costs.

Mrs. Llodra finished with the rest of the presentation starting on page 17 where they have identified uses intended for the funds in Capital Nonrecurring.

Reducing staff in a municipality looks very different than it does in an education environment. Our population continues to grow which increases demands in services. They reduced the subsidy to Edmond Town Hall, the Library and the Fire Departments. Contingency is very tight this year. It cannot that low again. We want to budget conservatively but not be reckless by reducing it so much that she needs to come back and ask for more.

Mr. Tait picked up the presentation at page 21. The Municipal services budget has actually increased \$715,250 and it is reduced by debt services which equates to an increase in spending of \$482,058.

Medical Benefits represents 10% of the total budget. In this budget there is no increase on the Town or the BOE contributions.

Operating expenses have increased no more than inflation. Legal expenses have increased \$50,000 based on what the expenses have actually been.

The change in grand list this year is .75% which contributes a little over \$750,000 in new taxes to the budget. In the summary of revenues, is an increase of \$1.1 Million which comes from other sources, it does not represent an increase in taxes. When the BOE and the BOS budgets are combined the tax increase is 0% and the mill rate is the same.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Kortze announced that Thursday meeting is not a budget meeting but they still need to meet to vote on the amended CIP and the CIP policy.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk