

March 5, 2014

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were John O'Brien, Chairman; Glenn Frishman, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; Bryan Bentz; Sandy Grimes and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance, Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools Van Riley; Board of Education members and staff and residents.

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Previous Minutes**

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

#### **Budget Hearings FY 14-15**

Board of Education – BOE Chair Frank Todisco thanked the Board. He started stating that the budget presented carries a 2.96% increase, which was reduced from the Superintendents proposed budget. The BOE had to make some difficult cuts and reductions, which he stated, will result in larger classroom sizes and less services for students. They reduced the Superintendents funding request with regard to SEED, (CT's System for Educator Evaluation & Development) as there is still a considerable amount of uncertainty and what they will be expected to implement in September 2014, but it is apparent that SEED will require additional funding to comply.

At this time, he introduced Dr. Riley to review the budget. The format is the same as last year and attributed this to input from the Board of Finance members. Also for the second year, each school receives funds at the principals' discretion based on a general formula that takes into account grade levels and enrollment.

He added that they continue to look at ways to cut expenses and increase revenues. He stated that four positions were vacated in the summer and these positions were covered by substitutes, which will ultimately save the Town. He stated he continues to seek relief with regard to the Magnet school issues. There is a freeze on new magnet programs at the State level.

They are actively pursuing reimbursement for funding for the renovation of the roof at Deans Mill School. Mr. King has been in contact with State representatives and is following the process and protocol requirements, they could get up to \$300,000. This will however not allow them to move forward with an April timeline. They will just go ahead with everything in the summer. Operations Manager Bill King stated that funding is in place with a reimbursement rate of 31.2%. Superintendent Riley is working with First Selectman on relocation of Transportation facility.

At this time Dr. Riley reviewed the Board of Education budget line by line-  
summarized below:

Budget Reduction Summary Revised 2-26-14		
2013-14 Budget		\$83,733,623
<b>Required Increases</b>	Contracted salary increases - total	\$796,000
	Health benefits @ 9.2%	\$370,000
	Other statutory benefits	\$57,000
	Special Education and Magnet Tuition	\$161,000
	Transportation (contract and increase fuel)	\$49,000
	Heat and utility costs	\$153,000
	<b>Total Required Increases</b>	<b>\$1,586,000</b>
	Percent of 2013-14 Budget	4.70%
<b>Other Increases</b>	SEED mandate (2.5 assistant principals)	\$330,000
	Text books, instructional materials, subscriptions	\$107,000
	Curriculum development	\$30,000
	Maintenance supplies and equipment	\$38,000
	Special Education transportation	\$19,000
	Technology materials and equipment	\$36,000
	Athletic equipment replacement/safety	\$19,000
	<b>Total Other Increases</b>	<b>\$579,000</b>
	<b>Total All Increases</b>	<b>\$2,165,000</b>
	Percent of 2013-14 Budget	6.42%
<b>Reductions by BOE</b>	SEED mandate reduction	\$210,000
	Teaching positions (8.0)	\$840,000
	Para positions (5.0) and hours	\$227,000
	Tech position (1.0)/reorganization	\$25,000
	SAT/AP test fees	\$33,000
	Alternative high school / credit recovery	\$20,000
	Communications budget	\$50,000
	Special Education tuition	\$35,000
	District department budgets	\$3,000
	Reduction in classified substitutes	\$10,000
	Reduction in classified hours/positions	\$15,000
	<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>\$1,168,000*</b>
	<b>Net Increases - Reductions</b>	<b>\$997,000</b>
	Percent Increase	2.96%

Board of Finance members questioned and asked for clarification and substantiation on the following items: Workers Compensation increase which Mr. King and Mrs. Stevens replied that the cost has been level for three years; Mr. King stated that fuel markets seem to be on the downside and hopes to lock in rates soon; a detailed breakdown of In Town travel; reduction in BOE maintenance costs with regard to what is now Town's responsibility for field maintenance. if there was a budget transfer –please provide; instructional supplies/classroom books; increased police services for home games; addition of a stipend for a 365 day a year checker of all fields into the gym and auditorium; breakdown of Repairs and Maintenance line #54300; PRI line conversion- Primary rate interface; administrator salaries with SEED support included; 8 teaching positions were reduced, total teacher salary line is correct but placement in each school may require adjustments.

Mrs. Stevens requested that the Excess Cost grant be listed separately in the budget to show reimbursement rate, even though estimated at this time. Mrs. Strunk asked that the actual Budget expended amounts be shown.

Board of Education Capital Improvements –

Roof repairs can be adjusted to \$12,000 based on decision at Town meeting March 18 ; Board of Education recommends line items and amounts, runs through the Town but Town does not coordinate the expenditures. Mr. King stated that all of the Priority B items are important, Dr. Riley expanded stating that the *construction of walls for office access* in the two elementary schools is First priority. Mr. O'Brien asked for a total on Safety items- it is \$510,000 for the FY 14-15. Mr. King added that he will apply for reimbursement for all eligible items.

Discussion:

Leased Vehicles – First Selectman Haberek informed the Board that there are several Town vehicles with leases expiring that can be purchased or given back. Mrs. Stevens clarified that there are three vehicles, these leases were not included in CIP for the past two years so a budget transfer of \$23,156 is required. She added that March 21, 2014 these three vehicles come off the lease, the cost to buy out these vehicles is \$34,238.00. A discussion ensued regarding mileage, book value and flex-fuel. As this information was not available, members agreed to a Special teleconference meeting as this is a time sensitive issue.

Deans Mill School roof bid – Superintendent Riley informed the members that they had met with The Garland Company, Inc. to review the bid specifications. He believes that the plan is for a quality roof system that meets all code requirements and budget. The new roof will require a slope of ¼ inch per foot, all skylights will be removed, and a required 25-year full warranty.

**Director of Finance – Nothing to report**

**Correspondence – None**

At this time Mr. Haberek explained to the Board that the Building Official had requested \$30,000 in Technical Assistance for FY 14-15. He reduced this to \$5000.00. A new assisted living facility is being planned so he would like to increase the Building Official Technical Assistance line to \$25,000.

**Subcommittee reports**

Fields - Mr. Grimes stated they will be meeting soon.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Glenn Frishman  
Secretary

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