

March 13, 2013

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

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Previous minutes-February 17 and March 6**

Mr. Grimes addressed an error in the March 6 minutes. Under **Budget Hearings BOE-**, he stated he had discussed speaking with Superintendent Dr. Riley regarding the athletic fields. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 27 meeting as presented and the March 6 meeting as amended. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Bid Waiver requests-**

Mrs. Strunk stated that she would like to table the Bid waiver requests as it was going to be a long meeting and she had many questions. Mr. Grimes and Mr. O'Brien agreed. She stated that she would like to keep it separate from deliberations. Mr. Frishman asked what the questions were, at this time Mr. Grimes asked Captain Desmond if the License Plate reader request was something they currently have in the department. Captain Desmond replied that they have been using a demo unit for the past 6 months and they are quite pleased. The MPH-900 model license plate reader by ELSAG North America is promoted widely within the state and has received positive feedback from other police departments. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the bid waiver for the License Plate reader and table the bid waiver for the Police Boat. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Budget Deliberations**

At this time, Mr. Frishman stated that the proposed 2013-14 budget is \$58,562,068; an increase of \$1,828,372 or 3.22% over the Adopted budget for 2012-13. The 2012 Net Grand List has decreased 18.626% over the 2011 Net Grand List. The proposed mill rate is 20.63. Mrs. Stevens had informed the members that since it was a revaluation year it did not allow for a logical comparison of mill rates. A comparison of the "Amount to be raised by taxes" would provide the most useful information for deliberations. Mrs. Stevens also provided a Revaluation Analysis. Mr. Frishman stated that Mr. O'Brien had

determined that level funding would have a 19.52 mill rate. Members discussed the fund balance, which is healthy at \$2.6 million over 2 months operating. Mr. Frishman asked the members where they would like to be for presentation to the taxpayers. Mr. Wheeler stated that he would like to go through the budget; Mr. O'Brien agreed and was comfortable with the healthy fund balance. Mr. Grimes stated that he would like to reduce the undesignated fund balance by \$1 to 1.5 million. Mrs. Strunk agreed. She asked Mrs. Stevens if the \$900,000 taken from the Fund balance for 2012-2013 would be used in full. Mrs. Stevens stated that she predicts it will be based on the status of revenues. Mr. Frishman added that he prefers to be more cautious.

After discussion with Town and SPS staff present, members agreed to the following budget reductions totaling \$266,996. 20.52 mills.

**Capital Improvements**

• PMS Elevator shaft replacement	-	\$39,999
• District-Classroom Blind/Shade replacement	-	\$ 9,999
• District-Major Equipment-Property maint.	-	\$11,999
• Tiling/Carpeting	-	\$ 5,000
• DMS/WBS Asbestos Abatement & Tiling	-	\$ 5,000
• Student Information System	-	\$ 50,000
• New Police Cars	-	\$ 60,000
• Purchase Backhoe	-	\$ 84,999

Mr. Frishman asked Public Works Director Joe Bragaw to look into whether they could include the pavement crack sealing at the High School with the Highway project.

At this time, the Board decided to put off additional cuts to the next deliberation scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

**Director of Finance – Nothing to report**

**Subcommittee Reports – The bids are out for the Athletic Fields.**

At this time, Mrs. Strunk addressed a letter from Thomas Londregan, Town Attorney and a possible conflict of interest given her involvement with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center as the President of the Board of Directors. His opinion based on facts he has received would be to recuse herself from discussions and votes involving the PNC. He added that if she declined to recuse herself she may bring additional facts and information to his attention and request that he reconsider his opinion under the Ethics Ordinance. Mrs. Strunk stated that she would prefer not to recuse herself and would consider resigning as President of the PNC Board of Directors, she added that she is simply a volunteer. She will provide additional information to Mr. Londregan.

**Correspondence**  
**Board of Education Transfers**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John O'Brien  
Secretary

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