

May 1, 2013

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; Bryan Bentz; Sandy Grimes and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance.

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

Previous minutes—April 8 Public Hearing and Special meeting; April 16

Mr. Grimes requested the inclusion of who voted and how to three specific votes in the April 8 meeting minutes that followed the Public Hearing. There were no objections. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 8 Public Hearing and special meeting as well as the April 16 meeting. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Set Mil Rate

Voters approved the \$57,937,663 million budget with a .35 mil tax increase by a 1582 to 674 vote. Mr. Grimes made a motion to set the mil rate at 19.88. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens updated the members on Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) information and the recently attended Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) meeting. With regard to the Appropriations' Committee proposed budget. She added that this is still undetermined. The impact as it stands with the passed budget is a decrease in revenue of about \$88,464. She covered the changes for FY 2013-14. Mr. Frishman asked about the standardized mill rate for the State. Mrs. Stevens replied that the proposal to not tax motor vehicles has been dropped but they are still moving ahead with the standardized mill rate. This means that they are going to decide on cap on the motor vehicle tax rate beginning with the current highest rate (around 74) and reducing the top rate each year for 8 years. Members discussed the impact to the taxpayers in the Town. Mr. Bentz commented that he expects the public has no idea this is going on.

He also asked about the Fund Balance policy and if it included protection with regard to State policies. Mrs. Stevens stated that she would look into it further; the policy is reviewed every year in October, so adjustments could be addressed then. Mr. Grimes asked about the reduction in funds for the Education Cost Sharing. Mrs. Stevens said yes it was reduced but the Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Grant was increased but it did not even out.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Grimes reported that the groundbreaking for the fields project will be Friday May 3. Graduation was relocated to the Coast Guard.

Correspondence

Assessor Marsha Standish provided the members with the October 1, 2012 Net Grand List Information with Board of Assessment Appeals adjustments.


New Business

Mrs. Strunk asked to add this item to the agenda to address and discuss Freedom of Information Act rules. She stated that it has come up at other meetings that when two members of a board meet there should be a public notice, there does not need to be a quorum. She spoke with the Town Clerk and there is some confusion. After discussing, it was determined that there were several interpretations of the act. Mrs. Stevens mentioned Tom Hennick the FOI education officer stated at an informational meeting she attended that when two members from a board meet it should be posted but he did not specify parties. Mr. Frishman stated that he would contact the Town attorney, as he has provided the First Selectman with an opinion on this matter in the past. Mrs. Stevens offered to contact Mr. Hennick for clarification.

Mrs. Stevens will provide for the members a copy of the *Working Draft* of the bill concerning mill rates for motor vehicles.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;


John O'Brien
Secretary

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