

**Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2017**

**1. Call to Order:** Acting Board of Finance Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Roll Call:** Ronald Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, Glen Lessig, David Fortin, David Richardson and Jeffrey Kelleher were present.

**Excused Absent:** David Hosmer and Roy Bradrick

**Others:** Seventeen members of the public.

**3. Seat Alternate if Necessary:** David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana made a motion to seat Alternate David Richardson for tonight's meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. New Business/Budget Discussion:**

**A. Allocation of Available Funds:** Michael Dougherty announced that the Attorney's opinion on this year's Proposition 46 calculations has been received. The Attorney stated that under the Proposition 46 guidelines in a revaluation year the calculation submitted is correct. This reflects an increase of \$330,261.00 over the FY 16/17 budget. This would bring the total Proposition 46 allowable budget to \$22,674,814.00.

Chairman Dougherty suggested that the Board of Selectmen's budget remain as presented at last week's meeting at the amount of \$5,005,623.00, and allot the sum of \$374,197.00 to the Board of Education. This would make the Board of Education's budget for Fiscal Year 17/18 \$17,282,923.00.

It was the consensus of the Board of Finance to present a Proposition 46 allowable budget at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. If the budget fails at the Proposition 46 allowable then the Board of Finance will know that the tax payers think that the budget is too high.

David Richardson stated that he felt that presenting a budget at the Proposition 46 allowable would create too much of a tax hike. He felt that there still was not enough information coming from the State of Connecticut in regards to revenues and what amount the State will tell the Town it must contribute towards the teacher's pension fund.

David Fortin, seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to recommend that the Board of Education presents a budget not to exceed the amount of \$17,282,923.00 and that the Board of Selectmen presents a budget of \$5,005,623.00, with redemption of debt of \$386,268.00 for a total budget amount of \$22,674, 814.

David Richardson again stated his concerns with the budget numbers presented this evening. He also pointed out that he believes that the Board of Selectmen's budget has not decreased as was presented last week, but has increased. He believes that a pretty significant amount of money in the Board of Selectmen's budget for the Fiscal Year 15/16 was not expended. He feels that this is money being thrown into the budget that is not needed.

Acting Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick reminded Mr. Richardson that a part of the money not expended in the General Government budget went into the Town's General fund. Other funds went into the CNR account. Other members of the Board of Finance agreed with Ms. Fitzpatrick. Chairman Dougherty stated that the money that is not expended at the end of a Fiscal Year is used for future projects, such as road repair and bridges.

Fred Chmura calls for a vote on the motion. Those in favor of the motion: Ronald Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, Glen Lessig and David Fortin. Those opposed: David Richardson. **Motion passes.**

**B. Funding Options:** Followed was a discussion on how to raise the \$194,000.00 shortfall in revenues. It was the consensus of the Board of Finance not to take this out of the General Fund, but to raise the mil rate to cover the shortfall.

There was also discussion on how to raise the \$863,000.00 that the State may require to the Town to pay towards the Teacher's Pension fund. It was the consensus of the Board of Finance to take \$500,000.00 of the \$863,000.00 from the General Fund, and to fund \$363,000.00 either through a supplemental tax billing or from the Board of Selectmen's budget. Since there has been no definite directive from the State of Connecticut on this situation it was decided to wait to make a final decision on this matter.

**5. Correspondence and Announcements :** Michael Dougherty stated that the Public Hearing will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the final budget meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, where the auditor will also be appointed. The Annual Town Meeting will be on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and the referendum will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Adjournment:** David Richardson, seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Assistant Town Clerk