

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2017**

1. Call to Order: Acting Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Michael Dougherty announced that Fred Chmura would not be able to attend this meeting, and he appointed Jeffrey Kelleher to fill his seat for this meeting.

2. Roll Call: Ronald Cabana, Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, David Richardson and Jeffrey Kelleher were present.

Absent: David Hosmer, Frederick Chmura, Glen Lessig and Roy Bradrick Jr.

Others: Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick, Superintendent Viktor Toth, Karen Munroe, Ernie St. Jean, Woody Durst, John Mahon, and Preston Shultz.

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

4. Approve Minutes from May 16, 2017 Regular Meeting: David Fortin, seconded by David Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2017 regular meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Report of Committees: None

6. Unfinished Business:

A. BOF Bylaws: Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick informed the Board that Glen Lessig asked her to pass these out to the Board members. Ms. Fitzpatrick reminded the Board members that they had voted on the bylaws at the January 10, 2017 meeting. This copy includes the amendments made at that meeting.

B. School Roof Project: Karen Fitzpatrick informed the Board that some of the State reimbursement for this project has been received, and that more money may be forthcoming. She explained that a work order that had been submitted was not reimbursable, but there were hopes that that could be straightened out.

Ms. Fitzpatrick also told the Board that the Board of Selectmen were going to bond this project with Webster Bank, and that the papers should be signed sometime this week, with a closing date sometime at the end of July. The ban with Century Bank will be paid with the money from the bond. She stated that the principal of the 10 year bond will be \$160,000.00 and will roll into the 2018/2019 budget.

C. Solar Project Update: David Richardson has been researching the deal made between the Town of Woodstock and BeFree Solar. He has spoken many times with Eversource to be better able to understand this project. He feels that the numbers presented by BeFree Solar and by the press release from the Board of Selectmen's Office is unachievable. According to his research the Town can only make \$216,894.00 per year on this project. He wonders if the people who negotiated this deal with BeFree Solar were deceived by BeFree Solar.

After much discussion by the Board of Finance it was decided to wait until the end of the first year of the use of the solar array, and study the money paid out by the Town and the credits received. If there appears to be a problem the Board of Finance will ask the Board of Selectmen to investigate why the numbers are off from what was projected. This will be brought up again at the September regular meeting.

David Fortin, seconded by David Richardson made a motion that David Richardson be empowered by the Board of Finance to continue to research the BeFree Solar agreement, and be allowed to receive host bills and BeFree Solar invoice/invoices, and be able to speak with Eversource contacts, for the purpose of understanding and distributing this information to the Board of Selectmen. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. New Business:

A. Request from BOE for CNR Funds: Superintendent of Schools Viktor Toth explained to the Board of Finance that the Board of Education would like to request the amount of \$99,500.00 for repairs at both the Woodstock Elementary School and the Woodstock Middle School. Some of these items were removed from the 2017/2018 budget request and some of these items were on the 5-Year Capital Plan.

David Fortin asked Mr. Toth if any money had been put in the non-lapsing account. Mr. Toth said that no money had been put into the health care account and that they were still waiting for outstanding bills from last fiscal year to come in. There is already a predicted shortfall in next year's Special Ed account.

After discussing concerns about the uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's budget outcome the Board of Finance directed Mr. Toth to use the money in their operating budget for these projects and if the State has a budget by the September meeting, the board would authorize the funds to be replaced in the Board of Education's budget. The Board of Finance would also like to see an itemized dollar amount for the items on the list.

8. Communications and Correspondence: Mr. Dougherty announced that the next Board of Finance meeting would be held on September 12, 2017.

9. Public Comment: Ernie St. Jean remarked that solar panels are considered hazardous waste, and wondered what would happen to the panels as they were replaced. Mr. Dougherty stated that BeFree Solar is responsible for disposal of the panels.

Preston Shultz stated that the Pomfret Public school is having trouble with their solar panels. He also is disturbed that one elected official can block another elected official from receiving information. He does not feel that it is correct that one person can sign a contract that affects the whole town.

10. Other from the Board: David Fortin asked if the AFSCME contract had been settled yet. Karen Fitzpatrick said that it had and that a copy was on file in the Town Clerk's office. David Fortin asked if a copy could be forwarded to the members electronically. Ms. Fitzpatrick said that she would request the Selectmen's office to do so.

Jeffrey Kelleher asked if the AFSCME contract was held at the Town Clerk's office for 30 days before ratification could proceed as is the case with the Teacher's contract. Karen Munroe, the business manager for the Board of Education stated that only the Teacher's contract fell under that requirement. Jeffrey Kelleher asked why there wasn't a public comment section at the beginning of the agenda. Michael Dougherty and Karen Fitzpatrick pointed out, that according to the by-laws, the chairman could decide to leave that off of an agenda. It was felt that it was unnecessary for this meeting.

11. Adjournment: David Richardson, seconded by Jeffrey Kelleher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted
Christine G. French, Clerk

To view a video of this meeting, please visit WoodstockCT.gov and follow the link found on the home page.