

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017**

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

2. Roll Call: Ronald Cabana, Michael Dougherty, Glen Lessig, David Fortin, David Richardson, Roy Bradrick Jr and Jeffrey Kelleher present.

Excused Absent: David Hosmer and Frederick Chmura.

Others: Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick, Clerk Christine French, Woody Durst, Preston Shultz, Michael Bernardi, Clifford Davis, John Navarro, Tina Lajoie and Michael Deyorio.

3. Seat Alternate if Necessary: Mr. Dougherty informed the board members that Fred Chmura had designated Jeffrey Kelleher to fill his spot at tonight's meeting.

David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana made a motion to seat Roy Bradrick for tonight's meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting: David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana made a motion to approve the July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Under Unfinished Business, Section B, School Roof Project Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick noted that the 10 year bond for the roof project will be **\$1,160,000.00** not \$160,000.00.

Also under Unfinished Business, Section C Solar Project Update, paragraph 1, David Richardson would like the following sentences which read as follows: " He feels that the numbers presented by BeFree Solar and by the press release from the Board of Selectmen's Office in unachievable. According to his research the Town can only make \$216,894.00 per year on this project," be changed to " He feels that the numbers presented by BeFree Solar and by the press release from the Board of Selectmen's office **are** unachievable. According to his research the Town can only make **between \$300,000.00 and \$800,000.00 on this project over twenty years with some downside risk that we could pay more than we receive in credits and end up costing the town money.**"

Also under that section in the third paragraph he pointed out that he did not second the motion empowering him to research this matter with Eversource and BeFree Solar. After discussion it was determined that **Ron Cabana** seconded the motion, and **Jeffrey Kelleher** abstained.

David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana, amended their previous motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Meeting as amended. **All in Favor:** Ronald Cabana, Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, Roy Bradrick and Jeffrey Kelleher. **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** Glen Lessig.

5. Report on Committees: None.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Minority Representation for Seating of Alternates: Glen Lessig said he researched this matter and said that there is nothing in State Statute that dictates how an alternate seat is designated for a meeting. After discussion on this issue it was the consensus of the Board of Finance that this topic did not need an opinion from the Town Attorney.

David Richardson wished to go on the record as having brought up this issue and that he is in disagreement with the board on this decision.

B. Update on School Roof Project: Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick informed the Board of Finance that Webster Bank had been chosen to finance the bonds. The first principal payment for this project will be due on July 15, 2018, and will be due annually for 10 years. She further explained that this project will be a part of the budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019.

C. Solar Project Update: David Richardson presented his findings on this subject to the Board of Finance. He stated that it appears that the Town saved approximately \$43,000.00.

He also stated that the Board of Selectmen and especially the Board of Education should research the generation contract with Eversource to see if they can negotiate a lower rate.

Glen Lessig, seconded by David Fortin, made a motion to designate the chair to find out what was the reasoning for the generation rate and see about getting a lower rate from the Board of Selectmen's office. **Motion passed unanimously.**

After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board of Finance that if the website was updated to state that the Town will save money on electricity by using the solar field the Board of Finance would be satisfied.

D. BOE CNR Funds Request from 7/11/2017: Chairman of the Board of Education Michael Bernardi said that they had not been able to come up with an itemized list for the projects that the Board of Education would like to accomplish. The Board of Education is waiting for a budget from the State before making any final decisions, and it was agreed to table this until a future meeting.

Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick stated that she had received a memo from the Board of Education Business Manager that \$3,375.00 from the \$74,224.00 from the air conditioning project would not be used, because of a rebate from Eversource. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked Mr. Dougherty if he would like the Board of Education to use this money towards a project. It was the consensus to close out the existing project, and to return the funds remaining to the unassigned CNR fund.

Roy Bradrick, made a motion, seconded by David Fortin to move \$3375.00 remaining from the air conditioning project to the unassigned CNR fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Review Current Fund Balance Policy: Due to the fact that the State of Connecticut still has not passed a budget it was felt that it would be wise to put any surplus funds into the Fund Balance in order to cover any shortfalls arising from when the State of Connecticut finally passes a budget. In doing this the fund balance would be over the 15% policy limit.

David Fortin, seconded by Glen Lessig, moved to suspend the limits of the unassigned fund balance as detailed in the Board of Finance Fund Balance policy until such time as the State approves a budget.

These Fund Balance Policy limits will be revised after the Board of Finance establishes a plan to fund Woodstock's 2017-2018 Budget as it was approved by the voters. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. New Business:

A. BOE Non-Lapsing: A memo was received from the Board of Education Business Manager Karen Munroe stating that at the end of the 16-17 budget the Board of Education had a balance of \$154,254.99, and that the Board of Education passed a motion at their June 2, 2016 meeting to move this amount to the non-lapsing account as of July 1, 2017.

Chairman of the Board of Education Michael Bernardi informed the Board of Finance that the Board of Education had applied for a 50/50 security grant, which they hope to use to secure new locks, cameras, and a generator for the Woodstock Elementary School. He also stated that if there was an unexpected Special Education outplacement student funds for this could come from the non-lapsing account.

B. BOS Transfers: Highway Foreman John Navarro went over some of the items presented in a memo from the Board of Selectmen. It was decided that some of these projects could wait until the State of Connecticut has passed its budget, and that the above ground storage tank replacement at the Town Hall and the hazardous waste day scheduled for November with Pomfret were projects that needed the funds.

David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana, made a motion to leave the entire amount of \$294,960.16 in the unassigned general fund without prejudice for the projects listed and to fund the Hazardous Wasted Day in the amount of \$5500.00 and to fund \$10,000.00 towards the above ground storage tank – phase 2 – for the foundation and plumbing work from the Board of Finance's contingency fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Quarterly Reports: Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick went over the reports, and explained that more fees have come in than were originally expected.

9. Communications and Correspondence: Chairman Michael Dougherty announced that the next Regular Board of Finance meeting will be held on November 14, 2017.

10. Public Comment: Michael Bernardi stated that there are 34 more students in the school system than was anticipated, and that this will be reflected in next year's budget, with 14 of those students enrolled at Woodstock Academy.

Preston Shultz informed the Board of Finance that it is very difficult to get information on how the \$2.3 million dollar savings in electricity cost over 20 years was calculated. He feels that BeFree Solar is fraudulent.

Michael Bernardi suggested that a meeting with Eversource and an outside source be invited to speak to the Board to help them understand how this arrangement works.

Michael Dougherty suggested to Michael Bernardi to have the business manager look into switching electrical providers and to research the terms of the current contract to see if there could be savings there.

11. Other from Board: David Fortin attended a meeting in Putnam with the local state representatives. The state representatives were not too optimistic with what is going on in Hartford in regards to passing a budget.

12. Adjournment: Glen Lessig, seconded by David Fortin made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. **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.