

**Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2017**

1. Call to Order: Acting Chair Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Roll Call: Ronald J. Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, Glen W. Lessig, and David Richardson present.

Excused Absent: Roy Bradrick, Jr. and Jeffrey Kelleher.

Others: Mike Alberts, Chandler Paquette, Michael Bernardi, and Linda Bernardi

3. Seat Alternate if Necessary:

David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana to seat David Richardson for the Special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Report:

Dave Fortin reported on the Subcommittee to Interview applicants for the position to fill the vacancy for the remaining term of Alternate to the Board of Finance. The position was vacated by Roy Bradrick, Jr. election in November to a full term as a Member of the Board of Finance. The Subcommittee consisted of Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, Glen Lessig. The Subcommittee interviewed one candidate Michael Bernardi. Fortin stated that the Subcommittee had a frank, pointed and honest discussion on the role of the Board of Finance without discussing any policy or future decisions of the Board. The discussion centered around the role of the Board and how Mr. Bernardi could contribute to the Board. Fortin stated that after interviewing Mr. Bernardi he recommends that Mr. Bernardi be appointed to fill the vacancy of alternate to the Board of Finance. Dougherty also recommended Mr. Bernardi to the position.

5. Discussion:

Richardson asked the Subcommittee if any other persons were invited to be interviewed or asked to seek the position. Dougherty stated that a number of individuals were approached that were thought might be good candidates for the position but none expressed interest in the position. Richardson stated that the opportunity to fill a vacancy on the Board only goes up on occasion and it is a real opportunity to add some to the Board with skills and knowledge of finance. Richardson stated that he has concerns with Mr. Bernardi in his position of Chair of the Board of Education he has come to the Board of Finance with reports of deficits in the school system' budget. However, over the last four years there has been a surplus of 1.4 million dollars. He showed a similar lack of financial understanding as a member of the School Upgrade Committee putting forward maintenance projects which would have had useful lives shorter than the bond issue to support them. Also, with the BOE healthcare fund which effectively locked up over \$800,000; \$300,000 more than required believing that these funds could be used for school operations, clearly not understanding State Statute 10-222 which had been explained repeatedly. Most recently in regard to the School Electric generation contract, he as Chairman of the BOE allowed the school administration to abrogate their responsibility to maximize school resources by allowing to let the town contract for generation services costing the school system more than \$30,000 this fiscal year. He seems to lack an understanding of these key financial issues. Richardson believes that what is

needed on the Board of Finance is the able to understand finance and money management. Richardson suggested that the Chair of the Board of Finance approach the Board of Selectman with the request that we have more time to look for candidates for the vacant position that have a financial background and could do financial analysis which would upgrade the capabilities of the Board of Finance.

Chmura stated that he wished that were more candidates for the position, however he does not have any issues with Mr. Bernardi serving as an alternate and he has knowledge of education finances.

Fortin stated that he respectfully disagrees with Richardson's positions and believes that Mr. Bernardi is qualified for the position and that Mr. Bernardi knowledge of the Board of Education finances would be helpful to the Board of Finance and he supports his appointment.

Lessig believes that Mr. Bernardi has a background in educational finances and will bring insights to the needs of the school system to the Board of Finance. He believes that alternate members bring a breath of information. He believes that Mr. Bernardi is qualified and has his support.

Dougherty stated that Mr. Bernardi brings as much background as other members of the Board of Finance brought when they were elected. Also, that Mr. Bernardi cannot be held responsible for all the actions of the school system or the Board of Education as he is only one voice.

Mr. Bernardi believes that his six years on the Board of Education has left the school system in a better position than when he joined the Board of Education and that he believes that he moved the school system forward.

6. Motion of Appointment:

David Fortin seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Bernardi to the vacant position of Alternate to the Board of Finance. Voting in affirmative: Ronald J. Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, Glen W. Lessig. Opposed: David Richardson. Motion is carried.

7. Adjournment:

David Fortin seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:50 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick M. Chmura

Secretary

DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments. Please note that the video record is the legal record of the meeting.