

March 7, 2016

BOARD of FINANCE
Meeting Minutes
Approved

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm by Chairman Ezzes in the Town Hall meeting room with members Mr. Finkel, Mr. Sargent, Mr. Grauberd, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Koller, and Mr. Bochinski present. Also present were First Selectman Daniel, Town Administrator Landry, and Finance Director Darling.

AUDIT: Members discussed its process to select a new auditor. Mr. Ezzes, Mr. Grauberd, and Mr. Ferguson will participate in firm interviews, along with Mr. Rudl and Mr. Darling. Mr. Darling will seek updated submissions from the three firms interviewed last summer, and will schedule interviews in the coming month. The group will seek to have a recommendation in place to the full Board for its April meeting, but no later than its May meeting, as selection and appointment must be made by June 1.

OPEB: As expected materials were not received until late in the day, this discussion was deferred.

SELECTMEN'S BUDGET: First Selectman Daniel presented the Board of Selectmen's voted budget recommendation which includes a Town operating budget totaling \$12,628,839, Interest and Debt payments of \$6,308,838, and a capital budget containing \$687,100 in Town items. The Board directed that the Selectmen's recommended budgets for School operating and capital needs would be considered on Wednesday night.

Ms. Daniel briefly noted some of the statistics that illustrate the difficult economic environment in which this budget was crafted. She also stated that the Town's healthy General Fund Balance is expected to continue to grow this year. The Board did not feel the necessity of a detailed presentation, as it has had the budget for two weeks and members are familiar with the proposal. Accordingly, the group moved directly to questions regarding specific items in the budget.

The first item focused upon whether it was preferable to show the entire School Resources Officer position costs in the Police budget, or apportion \$45,000 of the cost to the BOE budget as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Chief Troxell provided an overview of the responsibilities of the new SRO position. Representatives from both Police and BOE spoke to the matter, all indicating their position that this expense should be 100% included in the Police budget. Ultimately the Board did not second a motion by Mr. Bochinski that the costs should appear totally in the Town budget, as it is reserving its votes until its deliberations on all budgets are complete. However, the Board did unanimously convey its sentiment that the expense should appear in the Town budget alone.

In the course of this discussion, Chief Troxell noted that the Police overtime request was increased in the Selectmen's recommended budget from what he requested. Mr. Landry

responded that he increased the budget request to account for the cumulative four year salary increases that will be reflected in the overtime budget for the first time this coming year. He briefly recounted the department's history of steadily overspending that account. First Selectman Daniel said she will revise the Town's budget to reflect this approach.

Other noted items were: the expense of the Georgetown Fire District, the amount and purposes of the Community Grant appropriation (Mr. Ezzes felt grants made by the Selectmen should not exceed \$1,000), a request for additional information regarding Park Department revenues (P&R Director Unger will provide), the positive trend in lower legal expenses in recent years, and the need to update year to date expense projections (Mr. Grauberd). Finally, Chairman Ezzes noted to Library Director Tatarka and Chair of the Library Trustees Board Sanborn, how pleased he was with the efforts of the new Children's Librarian.

ADJOURN: At 9:38 pm, a motion (Mr. Bochinski, Mr. Finkel second) to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous vote.