

## **DRAFT - Board of Finance Regular Meeting**

**March 13, 2025 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Held Remotely**

**Call to Order:** Board of Finance Chairman Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. BOF members attending were Vice Chairman Jeffrey Farr, Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Chris Bryant, Daniel Gershburg, Jeff Goldstein, Finance Director Rick Darling, First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Karl Kilduff, DPW Director Larry Roberts and WPS Finance Director Phil Cross.

**Discussion regarding the Board of Education's financial report for fiscal year 2025. Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations:** Mr. Cross provided an update on the period ending January 31, 2025 with an improvement in projected end of year balance of a \$44,000 deficit. Highlights noted were savings in salaries for unfilled vacancies, reduced legal fees in special education and students returning to district which reduces out of district placement costs. Electricity distribution rates reflect a year over year increase of 65%.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$20,000 for snow and ice removal overtime expenses. Larry Roberts, DPW Director:** Mr. Roberts discussed a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$20,000 for snow removal overtime due to higher than expected snowstorms, including Sundays and holidays which contributed to OT. Mr. Kilduff discussed the unpredictability of winter weather and the necessity of keeping roads clear for public safety. Mr. Baldwin discussed using funds from other parts of the budget within the DPW department to cover expenses rather than a supplemental appropriation request. Mr. Kilduff discussed the funds in other areas that are needed for upcoming projects and maintenance. Mr. Bryant discussed that this was an item previously cut at the ATBM which resulted in the special appropriation request.

**Discussion/Decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$50,940 for road salt and sand expenses. Larry Roberts, DPW Director:** Mr. Roberts discussed the request for a supplemental appropriation of \$50,940 to cover additional salt purchase as the salt barn is currently at 60% capacity. Higher than anticipated snow storms and the necessity to replenish salt/sand to have on hand was discussed. Mr. Roberts discussed that salt was previously cut at the ATBM which required the salt barn refill up to 60%, the request is to cover what has already been spent. Mr. Baldwin discussed using savings from other areas in DPW to cover expense.

**Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for expenses related to vehicle maintenance and repairs. Larry Roberts, DPW Director:** Mr. Roberts discussed the \$50,000 supplemental request due to unexpected repairs to vehicles and equipment, including a \$22,000 brake repair on a dump truck and a \$10,000 repair on a snow plow. He further discussed the unexpected repairs and the importance of maintaining the fleet for daily

operations. Mr. Kilduff stressed the need for reliable vehicles to ensure public works can perform their duties effectively. Mr. Farr had questions as to the amount of the request and Mr. Roberts explained that the BOS increased the request to cover potential additional expenses. Mr. Baldwin expressed using offsets within the DPW budget for upcoming projects and maintenance. Mr. Imber discussed that two of the items were originally budgeted for and reduced at the ATBM, had they not been reduced these items would not be supplemental appropriation requests. Budget management and future supplemental appropriations with finding offsets within the budget to cover unexpected expenses was continued.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 for snow and ice removal overtime expenses. Motion made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. 5 yes (MI, CB, JF, DG, JG) and 2 no (RB, TB). Motion carries.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$50,940 for road salt and sand expenses. Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Gershburg. 5 yes (MI, CB, JF, DG, JG) and 2 no (RB, TB). Motion carries.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for expenses related to vehicle maintenance and repair. Motion made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Gershburg. 4 yes (MI, CB, DG, JG) and 3 no (RB, TB, JF). Motion carries.

**Approval of Minutes from the February 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting, February 26, 2025 BOF public comment meeting and the March 5<sup>th</sup> budget review meeting:**

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the February 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes. Motion made by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Farr. 4 yes (MI, RB, TB, JF), 3 abstentions (CB, AG, JG), Motion carries.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup> BOF public comment meeting. Motion made by Mr. Farr, seconded by Mr. Baldwin. Motion carries 6 yes (MI, RB, TB, CB, JF, JG), 1 abstention (DG), Motion carries.

Mr. Imber called for a motion to approve the March 5<sup>th</sup> BOF budget review meeting. Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Bryant. Motion passes unanimously.

**Continuation of March 11 budget review to include debt service and capital budget requests:**

Debt Service – Only new additional debt is the interest payment on the BANS. Discussed timing for issuing bonds, including the potential impact of interest rates. Mr. Kilduff will consult with Mark Chapman, Munistat for updated interest rate expectations.

Capital Budget -

Parks and Recreation – 3 pool filters need replacement at WMS. Current filters are 10 years old, part of TOW cost share.

Parks and Recreation – Turf replacement fund. Annual request to fund eventual replacement of turf fields at WHS. Annual contribution also provided by Weston sports organizations, BOE and Boosters.

Police – Replace laptops in cruisers with compliant equipment, upgrade is due to outdated operating systems. Upgrade required to run camera system. Computers accessing Windows 10 or lower operating systems will not be compliant.

Police – Vehicle replacement of 2 vehicles, Ford Explorer Hybrid off of the state bid price.

Land Use – Online permitting system for department. Implementation of online system for public and contractors to access and apply for land use permits 24/7.

Lachat - Roof top solar for Offutt Center. Project includes 1/3 funds raised by Lachat and an additional \$30K to come back to TOW through a federal tax credit. Solar system will offset the electric costs of the Offutt Center.

Firetruck Replacement Reserve Fund – Establishes a reserve to fund the replacement of vehicle replacement in future years. Intended to have sufficient funds available in a reserve account when new equipment is needed to avoid unnecessary pressure on the budget or special appropriations.

Library State Construction Grant Match – ADA circulation desk, generator, air handler. Matching funds with a state grant covering 50%.

Assessor Vehicle Replacement – Vehicle to replace existing 2011 vehicle. Current vehicle is non-operational. Request is for AWD for use on site visits.

Admin & Finance – Request to support competitive grant applications.

DPW Plow Truck - Replace old truck & DPW Mason Dump with sander

DPW Fuel Pump Replacement - Engineering and architectural planning for 30 year old pumps at DPW and transfer station.

Ravenwood Water System – Generator Replacement.

DPW Pick Up Truck – Planned replacement of 2012 truck

DPW – Camera security system for Bisceglie & Morehouse.

Emergency Services – AED replacements. Funds AED's to equip patrol vehicles and replace AED in town hall.

DPW garage - Deferred building maintenance. Replacement of garage doors and salt shed.

Town Hall complex & Transfer station – Deferred building maintenance which were Tecton evaluations.

Majority of cost is to address hazmat abatement and safety.

Town Building Repairs - Town Annex and Jarvis house.

Regional Paramedic - Shared rate of paramedic fly car vehicle replacement. Shared expense with Wilton.

Adjournment: Mr. Imber asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary

## DRAFT Board of Finance Special Meeting

March 19, 2025

5:00 pm

Meeting Held Remotely

Call to Order: BOF Chairman Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Also in attendance were BOF members Vice Chairman Jeffrey Farr, Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Chris Bryant, Daniel Gershburg, Jeff Goldstein, TOW Finance Director Rick Darling, WPS Director of Finance Phil Cross, BOE Chairman Steve Ezzes, Director of Facilities Mike Del Mastro.

**Executive Session regarding School Security:** The meeting began with a discussion on campus security and an executive session to be held to discuss security measures. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to move into executive session. Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Gershburg. All in favor. Executive session began at 5:09pm and concluded at 5:39pm.

*Public Session commenced at 5:39pm.*

### **Public follow up review on various Board of Education FY2026 budget items:**

**Pension Reconciliation:** Mr. Cross discussed reconciliation relating to social security, medicare and pensions and will have firm numbers before budget deliberations. Mr. Imber asked for clarification on the budgeted number for administrators portion for CMERS, Mr. Cross discussed that majority of the administrators are certified and are involved in another pension. Mr. Farr confirmed that no social security was calculated in FY25, but expenses were incurred.

**Electric Distribution Rates:** Mr. Cross explained the significant increase in delivery costs, which impacts the budget for FY26 vs FY25. Adjustments were made to cover these costs. Mr. Farr inquired about the increased usage between last year and this year through January. Mr. Cross said it is due to more usage of the building space.

**Hurlbutt HVAC capital request:** Mr. Cross discussed further estimates for design costs, average estimate costs at the high end of \$205k plus soft costs requesting \$20k. Discussed reducing request from \$675k to \$225k to cover design and soft costs and come back with a more refined budget. Mr. Imber had comments on the implementation of the HVAC project budgeting over the next two fiscal years as well as further savings reflected in unspent capital budget transfer, reflecting a \$145k request rather than \$225k. Mr. Cross requested reinstating the high school locker room HVAC project for \$190,000. Mr. DelMastro provided details about the failing HVAC unit and its impact on the locker rooms.

**OPEB Analysis:** Follow up discussion regarding the BOE's decision to pivot from the private health insurance plan to the state plan resulting in an increase of the premium necessary to provide the level of coverage. Mr. Cross discussed the impact of moving to the state partnership plan for health insurance, net anticipated OPEB trust contribution would be \$47,209.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Imber asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary