

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

March 24, 2015

Town Hall Room 206 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present except Mr. Zagrodzky and Mr. McLaughlin. Also in attendance were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch and various Town officials and department heads. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The budgets for the Police Department, Public Works, Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, EMS, Parks & Recreation were discussed.

POLICE - Chief Lovello updated the board on the civilian dispatch program. He stated that they were currently working on metrics to determine how well the program was working. They are waiting for the dispatcher to attend the state academy before completing the metrics. He stated that he expects to be requesting 2 more dispatchers in FY 2017.

The board discussed the request for a new boat with Chief Lovello. The proposed boat should last 20 years. Repairs to the existing boat would have cost \$115,000.

PARKS & RECREATION – The Board discussed the request for sand. It was agreed to cut the budget to \$20,000 and move the request from the BOF Capital Contingency line back to the Sand Replenishment line. The Board also discussed the request for funding a Parks Open Space Plan. Funds for this are currently requested within the BOF Capital Contingency line item. The funds will stay there and the Parks & Recreation Commission will request the money when ready to move forward.

PUBLIC WORKS – The Board discussed facilities maintenance with Mr. Gentile, Director of Public Works. He explained the plan for replacing outside services with Town employees. The board requested that they compile the cost per square foot for maintenance of Town buildings.

FIRE – It was noted that the cost of firefighter physicals had gone up, so the departments plan to put them out to bid for FY 2016. In discussing the capital request for repairs to the old drill tower, Mr. Orr noted that he had read an article stating that the state approved an \$11 million grant to the Fairfield County Regional Fire School for improvements to the drill tower and fire grounds. He questioned whether, in light of this,

we should repair our drill tower or instead send our firefighters to the Fairfield Regional school. Mr. Lopiano & Mr. Zagrodzky are to look into this issue when they meet with members of the Fire Commission.

TRANSFERS OVER \$5,000

Mrs. Buch explained that when the new chief took over at the Noroton Fire Department, he found that repairs had been made to Engine 31 without an appropriation. The repairs were necessary due to the severity of the damage and the need to get the apparatus back in service quickly. As the repairs to Ladder 30 had not yet been undertaken, the chief requested that the funds be transferred to cover the cost of repairing Engine 31. On a motion by Mr. Orr, seconded by Mr. Lopiano, the following motion passed 5-0.

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved by the Board of Finance:

From:			To:		
Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
30333424-915013	Repair Waterway Ladder Truck	\$13489.	TBD		\$13489.

OTHER BUSINESS

On a motion by Mr. Orr, seconded by Mr. Lopiano, the Board voted 6-0 to go into Other Business.

Mrs. Mao raised the issue of the lack of air conditioning in the paddle hut at Weed Beach. Because there is no air conditioning, the Town loses out on potential rental income over the summer months. Mr. Lopiano moved that the Town set up an account for Air Conditioning at Weed Beach and that an amount of \$5000 be transferred from Contingency to that account. Mrs. Maguire seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Lopiano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Orr. The motion passed 5 – 0 at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Lopiano
Clerk