

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

October 21, 2014

7:30 PM – Town Hall Room 206

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. Also in attendance was Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

- a. Sewer Operating Fund – Pump Station Upgrades \$200,000

Liz Mao stated that these funds would come from the Sewer Operations Fund Balance account, which Kate Buch stated had been reserved for capital improvements some years ago. Edward Gentile, Director of Public Works, requested a transfer of \$200,000 from the Reserved Fund Balance account to a new capital account designated as “Pump Station Upgrades.” Mr. Gentile stated that they had Wright-Pierce, one of the town’s consultants, assesses the status of these pumps and that they have exceeded their useful life, which justifies the replacement.

Jon Zagrodzky moved approval, passed 7-0

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kate Buch stated that if there is another bad winter, the Public Works budget will run over again due to the cost of salt used on road after winter storms. Ms. Buch also indicated that banking fees for Parks and Recreation had increased due to the increase in usage of the online reservation service. It was suggested that, in light of these costs, Parks & Recreation consider the appropriateness of the current fee schedule .

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2015

Kate Buch reviewed the 2015 Board of Finance meeting calendar and she would reserve room 206 if everyone was in agreement. Ms. Buch went on to explain that these dates were chosen to avoid conflict with school activities and that the schedule would give the Board the appropriate amount of time for budget activities.

DISCUSS FIVE YEAR FORECAST, APPOINT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Seth Morton, a member of the RTM, joined the meeting to recommend that in our 5 year plan, we set reasonable targets for each area to slow the recent rapid rate of tax increases. Mr. Morton went on to explain that if targets are set, this can be used to the town's advantage during contract negotiations.

DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS FOR TOWN AND POLICE PENSION PLANS

Jon Zagrodzky explained that Buck Consulting was hired this year to review the key economic assumptions that drive pension contributions for the Town and Police pension funds. Mr. Zagrodzky reviewed several elements of the plan, highlighting Buck's recommendations regarding return and salary growth assumptions as well as other inputs.

Mr. Zagrodzky will present final recommendations to the Board in January.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 27, 2014 – Bruce Orr moved approval; passed 7-0
- September 16, 2014 – Frank Huck moved approval; passed 6-0-1

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jon Zagrodzky reported on the status of the CohnReznick Special Education audit. Mr. Zagrodzky stated that they have completed the assessment and will provide everyone with a draft presentation. He recommended scheduling a public town meeting to present the audit's findings and provide an opportunity for the public to pose questions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Liz Mao requested a formal vote to nominate Frank Huck as the Board of Finance representative for Town Hall contract negotiations.

Gwen Mogenson moved approval; passed 7- 0

OTHER BUSINESS (Requires a 2/3 vote)

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dave Lopiano made a motion to adjourn. The motion was second and approved 7-0 at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lopiano

Clerk