

Minutes

Board of Finance Meeting

April 1, 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.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OVER \$5,000

- **Public Works – Public Bldgs – Repairs & Maint \$28,000 (BOS 03/24/14)**

Kate Buch stated that the costs of replacing a heat exchanger and compressor, as well as some planned repairs, ran over budget.

Gwen Mogenson moved to approve the additional funds. Passed 7 – 0.

TRANSFERS – CONTINGENCY

- **Waste Management – Recycling \$10,000 (BOS 03/17/14)**

Kate Buch stated that funds requested were for the costs associated with printing tri-fold pamphlets showing which items can be recycled. Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman, was present in the meeting and stated that despite various technologies available, handing out pamphlets is still the best way to communicate to the town about the recycling changes at the transfer station.

Gwen Mogenson moved to approve. Passed 7 – 0.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Library – Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky and Gwen Mogenson reviewed this budget.

- Mr. Zagrodzky reported that the Library’s operating budget, which is funded by the town, is separate and distinct from the funds raised by the Friends of the Library (“Friends”). The operating budget approved by the Board of Selectman, is \$3,480,000, a 2.4 percent increase over last year.

- Mrs. Mogenson highlighted that the Friends raised \$350,000 dollars for a generator, so the cost to town would be zero.

Police Department – James McLaughlin and Bruce Orr reviewed this budget.

- The Civilian Dispatch proposal which was not a part of the Selectman’s budget, was brought to the Board of Finance for special consideration. Chief Duane J. Lovello, Police Chief, stated that under certain conditions, the town is understaffed with regard to providing emergency response services. The cost associated with adopting the first phase of this proposal is \$90,000.
- Fleet management was discussed, including the idea of repurposing a police vehicle for town use. Chief Lovello indicated that he could accommodate this request.
- A proposed investment to modify the emergency radio system was discussed. The purpose of the investment is to dead-zones, or areas of inadequate coverage.

Noroton Fire Department – Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky and Dave Lopiano reviewed this budget.

- Mr. Zagrodzky asked for more information on the \$18,000 in repairs to the fire department’s fleet. Chief Alan Hyatt was in attendance and stated that the department’s ladder truck needed hose repair and the boat needs a new deck.

Human Services – Jon Zagrodzky and Frank Huck reviewed this budget.

- The budget went up 6% percent due to the increase in clients, partly from the Heights development.

Youth Services – Jon Zagrodzky and Frank Huck reviewed this budget.

- Mr. Hauk explained that Tops and similar programs provide valuable services for the town and produce a profit. The budget overall was lower, offset by fees associated with the activities provided.

Building Department – Gwen Mogenson and James McLaughlin reviewed this budget.

- Mrs. Mogenson stated that Peter Solheim, the Head Building Official, requested that a second building assessment assistant be added to the department to help with increased workload. This request was declined. For the time being the workload will be monitored, and the request will be reconsidered later in the year.

Board of Education – General discussion

- The request for a turf field was cut, so funding by private donation can be explored.

Miscellaneous – General discussion

Liz Mao, Chairman, recommended that the Board draw on the town's fund balance to pay for projects such as Short Lane and fees associated with Special Education.

Revenue generating departments were reviewed, and revenue is up approximately \$750,000 over last year's budget.

Funding the emergency radio modification will go to the RTM for a vote outside the normal budget.

Significant paving projects were removed from the budget. The Board of Finance members agreed that these types of projects should be postponed given the costs associated with Special Education.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dave Lopiano made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Orr seconded the motion. Passed 7 – 0 at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Lopiano
Clerk