

*Minutes*

# Board of Finance Meeting

**April 5, 2012**

Room 206 7:30 PM

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Liz Mao at 7:32 pm. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also in attendance was Kate Clarke Buch, Finance Director. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

## **BUDGET REVIEWS** (budget changes made by the BoF shown in bold)

**Board of Education.** Members of the Board of Education (BoE), including Chairman Elizabeth Haggerty-Ross and Superintendent Stephen Falcone, were present to answer final questions on the Board of Education budget.

Ms. Haggerty-Ross provided some prepared remarks. She indicated that the current year deficit as of March was \$24,000, and that Special Education was driving the shortfall. She reported that most of the deficit (\$625,000) had been covered through existing accounts.

Other key points included the following:

- There has been an increase in long-term substitute teachers.
- Out of district tuition costs are already expected to be \$66,000 over next year's planned budget of \$3.1 million.
- Oil tank repairs may be needed next year and several of the schools.

In the discussion that followed Ms. Haggerty-Ross's presentation, several topics were covered:

- Desired attributes for the new director of special education
- Sources of pressures on students that are driving the need for an additional psychologist and social worker
- Clarification of the role/purpose of the SRO at the high school, including appropriate metrics for measuring program success
- The elementary school foreign language program being adopted, and appropriate metrics for measuring success of the program
- Special Education spending, including metrics and nonfinancial controls

Also discussed was the proposed BoE Capital Budget. It was noted that the Middlesex School roof replacement project will be funded in the current fiscal year out of contingency. Ms. Haggerty-Ross indicated that the district had applied to the state for grant that would partially reimburse the cost of the new roof.

Also discussed was proposed spending to purchase security cameras for use in the middle school and elementary schools. The BoF decided not to fund the cameras for this coming fiscal year, **a cut of \$117,000.**

**Board of Selectmen.** Following the Board of Education budget discussion, the BoF discussed the town budget.

- Kate Buch reviewed the cut list as of April 5<sup>th</sup>, which included expenses, revenues, sewer operating expenses, parking operations expenses, capital fund expenses and capital fund revenues. The schedule she prepared for use during the discussion is appended to these minutes as a separate PDF file called “2012.04.05 BoF minutes Exhibit A.pdf.”
- One item discussed in particular was Refuse Tip Fees. The budgeted amount of \$515,000 was considered too high. The BoF elected to reduce this revenue budget to \$490,000 **(a budget addition of \$25,000).**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Joe Duwan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0 at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Zagrodzky  
Clerk