

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 18, 2014**

Present: David Richardson, Ronald Cabana, Fred Chmura, Michael Dougherty, David Hosmer, Mark Shamber, Glen Lessig and George McCoy

Absent: None

Guests: Treasurer Donna Stefanik, First Selectman Allan Walker, Selectman Chandler Paquette, School Facilities Director Brian Musumeci, Highway Foreman John Navarro, Superintendent Dr. Frank Baran, David Fortin and WINY reporter.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Seat Alternate if Necessary: None needed.

3. Approve Minutes from October 14, 2014 & October 21, 2014 Special Meeting: David Hosmer, seconded by Fred Chmura, motioned to accept the minutes for the October 14, 2014 Meeting and the minutes of the October 24, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Fill Board of Finance Vacancy Alternate Member: David Hosmer, seconded by George McCoy, moved to appoint David Fortin to fill the Alternate vacancy on the Board of Finance. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Old Business: First Selectman Allan Walker reported that there has been no news on whether or not the Town of Eastford has matched the funds that the Town of Woodstock has allocated for the Camp Nahaco Park Commission.

In regards to videotaping meetings Mr. Walker informed the Board of Finance that there is a meeting set up with Savage Systems for Thursday, November 20, 2014.

The Board of Selectmen also withdrew their request for CNR funds to purchase a dump truck for use at the Transfer Station.

Chairman Dougherty asked the WPS Facilities Upgrade Committee for updates. Chandler Paquette, chairman of the WPS Facilities Upgrade Committee, and Brian Musumeci, School Facilities Director, reported that at this point the committee is looking for direction from the Board of Finance before RFP's are prepared.

David Richardson informed the Board that he had done research on the air conditioning system, and still had doubts about this unit. This system is on the cutting edge of air conditioning technology, and felt that there was not enough history behind it as of yet. He felt

that the system was larger than needed, exceeds what is required and that the electrical costs on this system would be significant.

Glen Lessig asked Dr. Baran if the schools would be used more during the summer months in the future. Dr. Baran felt that the schools would be used more in the summer in the future with ideas on educating children changing. Mr. Musumeci pointed out that the Woodstock Elementary School is currently being used for summer school and for Northwoods Day Care during the summer vacation. He also stated that the second and third floor of the Woodstock Middle School is unbearable hot during warm days.

Mark Shamber was concerned that any investment of this sort could eat up any budget growth. Incremental costs must be balanced against savings with new equipment.

Ronald Cabana agreed with the need to purchase new lockers for the Woodstock Middle School. He suggested however that the middle school lockers be used to replace the lockers at the elementary school.

David Hosmer said that this is a significant amount of money to ask the tax payers of the Town to spend in one shot. He suggested that the school roofs be replaced, and that any State reimbursements that are received from that be used towards other projects on the list.

Glen Lessig suggested that the School Facilities Committee look into other air conditioning systems. Chandler Paquette stated that only sections of the school could be air conditioned, and this would lower the cost of the air conditioning unit.

Another concern that some members of the Board of Finance had was the size of the generators.

Glen Lessig stated that he would like to see the Woodstock Middle School used as an emergency shelter, and that whatever generator was placed there should be large enough to handle that function.

David Richardson believes that smaller generators can be used to run the schools. He believes that CL&P should be contacted about the possibility to contract with CL&P or another service to be able to rent generators during an emergency. Mark Shamber said there are companies out there that do provide this service, but it is costly. Mr. Lessig thought that this option should be investigated.

There was also a concern about how much more electricity is being used at the Woodstock Middle School as compared to the Woodstock Elementary School. Brian Musumeci pointed out that the middle school is 15,000 square feet bigger than the elementary school. However, Board of Education chairman Michael Bernardi agreed to contact Paquette Electric to inspect the school to see if there is a reason that the middle school is using so much electricity.

Brian Musumeci also mentioned that CL&P is also coming to look at the schools to give them some suggestions.

George McCoy felt perhaps generators could be funded through FEMA grants or purchased through military surplus sales.

Ronald Cabana felt that the whole school didn't need to be painted at one time, and that it could be done in stages.

David Richardson felt that repairing the school roofs were pretty straight forward. He felt some of the projects on the list presented were not needed, and that the list should be pared down.

Dr. Baran stated that some projects on this list were compiled by people who have worked at the school for ten or more years. Brian Musumeci also reminded the Board of Finance that the School Facilities Upgrade Committee's charge was to present a list of all repairs and upgrades that need to be done at the schools in the hopes of extending the life of the buildings.

Michael Dougherty, the chairman of the Board of Finance, asked how the Board members wanted to proceed. Should the Board recommend taking out a bond to pay for these projects or should a short term or long term loan be investigated. Donna Stefanik informed the committee that there were good interest rates available if the Board of Finance was interested in investigating this possibility.

George McCoy, seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to form a subcommittee to look more closely at the list of projects, and prioritize what repairs and upgrades need to be done. **Motion passed unanimously.**

George McCoy, Glen Lessig, David Richardson, Mark Shamber, and David Hosmer agreed to volunteer for this subcommittee. George McCoy agreed to set up a meeting in the near future.

6. Consider Highway Foremen's Request to Designate CNR Money to be used for a Road

Project: Highway Foreman, John Navarro, explained to the Board of Finance that he would like the Board to consider designating the \$73,351.72 that was placed into CNR as undesignated funds towards phase 2 of the English Neighborhood Road reconstruction. This project would begin in March or April, 2015, and start at Cherry Tree Corner Road, and continue to Pond Factory Road. This is approximately 1.16 miles in length. Mr. Navarro added that this money was originally going to be used towards the purchase of a dump truck to be used at the Transfer Station.

Ronald Cabana asked if this was the final phase of the reconstruction of the English Neighborhood Road reconstruction. Mr. Navarro explained that it was not. That there was one

more phase to the project. He also informed the Board that \$350,000.00 in addition to the \$73,351.72 would be needed to complete phase 2.

George McCoy, seconded by Ronald Cabana, motioned to set aside \$73,351.72 of the CNR funds towards the English Neighborhood Road reconstruction project. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider Selectmen's Request to Pay Bill out of Contingency: First Selectman Allan Walker explained that this money would be used to pay Tom Trowbridge, a forester, who worked on the Perrin Road forest harvest project. Mr. Trowbridge marked the trees, did the bidding process, made up a management plan, and will be on site during the harvesting of the trees.

David Hosmer asked if the forester would be present while the land is being cleaned up. He was told that Mr. Trowbridge would be present during that process.

Glen Lessig, seconded by Ronald Cabana, motioned to approve to pay up to \$4800.00 for the forester. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Citizens Participation: Brian Musumeci would like the Board of Finance to consider the educational benefits that would be achieved by accomplishing these upgrades and renovations.

9. Correspondence & Announcements: Chairman Michael Dougherty reminded the members that the next Regular Board of Finance will be on December 9, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Dougherty also announced that there would be a Special Town meeting tomorrow night at 7:00pm, at the Woodstock Town Hall, in regards to the timber harvest.

10. Adjournment: David Hosmer, seconded by Michael Dougherty, moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Assistant Town Clerk