

**Board of Finance
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** Michael Dougherty, Ronald Cabana, Frederick Chmura, David Hosmer, Glen Lessig, George McCoy, Mark Shamber, David Fortin and David Richardson all present.
- Others:** Treasurer Donna Stefanik, Clerk Christine French, Linda and Michael Bernardi, Allan Walker, Karen Fitzpatrick, Julie Woodland, Cliff Davis, Ernest St. Jean, Michelle Woz, Karen Munroe, Joe Musumeci, Wayne Durst, Kevin Withers, Dr. Frank Baran and Karen Warinsky.
- 3. Seat Alternate if Necessary:** Not needed.
- 4. Approve Minutes from March 24, 2015 Regular Meeting:** David Hosmer, seconded by George McCoy motioned to approve the minute of the March 24, 2015 meeting.

David Richardson stated that he felt that his and David Fortin's written comments should have been put in the March 24, 2015 minutes as presented, and not paraphrased.

He also had the further amendments as follows:

On page 4, paragraph 5, he wanted to correct the sentence in regards to the Teamsters not receiving the stipend to read "Teamsters are not an issue. They are a separate unit."

On page 5, paragraph 2, the motion made by Glen Lessig, seconded by George McCoy, should read "bring a budget of \$21,979,978.00 to **Public Hearing**" not referendum.

In the next paragraph the word **reimbursement** should be removed, and **cost of** substituted in the sentence about the cost of special education outplacement services.

Motion to accept minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

5. Accept Final Budgets and Capital Plans for Town Meeting: David Richardson had concerns about the revised change in Special Education figure bringing the total allowable amount permitted under Proposition 46 to \$81,410.00. Of this amount, the Board of Education expects to be reimbursed 60%. Mr. Richardson said that historically, the State of Connecticut has reimbursed the Board of Education 80% of the costs. He feels that using the 60% reimbursement figure puts \$47,096.00 too much into the budget. He states that the Board of Education should figure the amount at 80% reimbursement from the State of Connecticut.

Glen Lessig asked why the Board of Education figured the Special Education reimbursement from the State at 60%. Dr. Frank Baran replied that there were too many unknowns to expect 80% reimbursement. The Board of Education feels that by putting more money into Special Education it will prevent the Board of Education from having to come to the Board of Finance mid-year asking for more money. Dr. Baran feels this protects both boards. He also assured Mr. Lessig that the Board of

Education has historically figured this reimbursement at 60%, and he stated that the State has not always reimbursed at 80%.

David Richardson reminded people that the reimbursement money does not get sent to the Board of Finance, but to the Board of Education. He also stated that if another Special Education student arrived say in July, that cost can be recouped in the next year's budget.

Chairman Dougherty asked the Board members if they wanted to change the figures of the budget from the March 24 meeting, or keep them the same.

David Richardson suggested decreasing the \$81,410.00 Special Education excess cost figure by 47,096.00 bringing the figure down to \$34,314.00. This would increase the figure of \$134,988.00 from the last regular meeting to \$169,312.00. This would bring the increase in the budget to the Proposition 46 limit.

Glen Lessig, seconded by Fred Chmura, moved to **approve the proposed budget of the Town of Woodstock for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016 in the amount of 22,014,292.00 and to appropriate said sum to meet the recommended expenditures.**

There was discussion about whether or not the budget should go to the Proposition 46 limit.

David Richardson felt that the Board should be cautious about bringing the budget to the Proposition 46 limit each year. David Fortin also felt that it was wrong to go to the Proposition 46 limit. He reminded people of his views on how the State is doing in these difficult economic times, and how that will affect the budget of the Town.

Michael Dougherty pointed out that if the Board of Finance decided not to go to the Proposition 46 limit and the budget failed, the Board of Finance would not know if the taxpayers felt that the budget was too high or too low.

Glen Lessig reminded the Board of Finance members that the taxpayers overwhelmingly voted for last year's budget at the Proposition 46 limit. David Hosmer stated that if the budget at the Proposition 46 limit is voted down, than the Board of Finance will know that the taxpayers feel that the budget is too high, and needs to be cut.

Mr. Hosmer feels that the \$34,314.00 needs to be given to the Board of Education. Even though the Board of Education has cut the oil budget, the price of electricity has gone up. He feels that the Board of Education needs this money to help cover that increase, as well as to help cover contractual obligations. Chairman Dougherty reminded the audience that the Board of Finance had agreed at the March 24 meeting to give any extra money that was available once the Proposition 46 allowable was finalized to the Board of Education.

At this point there was a vote on the motion that was on the table. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Dougherty asked if there was on discussion on the Capital Plan. Being none, David Hosmer, seconded by Ronald Cabana made a motion to bring the Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Woodstock to Town Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Appoint Auditor: Mr. Dougherty informed the Board of Finance that there is a four year agreement with the auditing firm of Mahoney Sabol. The cost for this year's audit is 35,700.00. Fred Chmura asked if this was the same as last year. Treasurer Donna Stefanik answered that this was a slight increase from last year, and that each year there would be a slight increase.

David Hosmer, seconded by George McCoy, moved to appoint Mahoney Sabol as the Town's auditor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Old Business: None.

8. New Business: Michael Dougherty asked if there were any questions in regards to the quarterly reports. There were none.

David Hosmer asked Chairman of the Board of Education Michael Bernardi if the Board of Education would be putting any money into the non-lapsing account. Michael Bernardi replied that it was too soon to tell, but they should have a better idea after Thursday's meeting.

9. Citizens Participation: Karen Warinsky was concerned that the Town Beach budget was cut from \$24,000.00 to \$5000.00, and wondered if there was any way some of that money could be returned to that line item. She was informed that the Board of Finance could not do so, but that she should go to a Board of Selectmen's meeting with other concerned citizens to see if something could be done.

10. Correspondence and Announcements: Michael Dougherty announced that the Town Meeting would be on May 12th, with the Referendum on May 19th. The next Board of Finance meeting will be on May 19th, immediately following the results of the Referendum.

11. Adjournment: David Hosmer, seconded by George McCoy motioned to adjourn at 7:40pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Clerk