

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **April 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anita Sebestyen, David Hemenway, Charles Pennewill, Jeffrey Smith, Thomas White, Anna Crawford

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Lori Jeffers commented on the Willimantic Service District budget and will support it. Union contracts should be for no more than 2 years and employee hours should be reduced to 32 hours.

3. Board of Finance Comment

There was no comment

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Anita Sebestyen to approve the meeting minutes from March 21, 2012.

The motion passed with one abstention

5. Chair's Report

At the Town Council meeting on April 17, 2012 there was a presentation on health care and it was decided to have a task force review the options for the Town and Board of Education.

6. Presentations and Special Reports,

Presentation from Fire Chief on Narrow Banding:

Neal Beets gave a presentation on the narrow banding. It will cost \$25,000 to upgrade radios and recommends amending the capital improvement plan. This needs to be completed by December 31, 2012. Use formula to allocate costs between the ambulance and fire department. Ratio of 60:40 would be \$15,000 to ambulance and \$10,000 to fire department.

Anita questioned if grants are being looked for.

Neal Beets replied yes we are applying for a grant but in case the Town does not receive the grant, we need to have funds set aside.

Thomas White questioned how many radios are on the ambulance.

Joe Marsalisi replied there is 1 base radio and 4 repeat radios.

Presentation from the tri-board:

Charles Pennewill commented the tri-board is working on a Request for Proposal for banking services.

Anita Sebestyen commented the tri-board is working on merging the finance departments and getting compatible software.

Tom Pesce gave an update on the audit.

All entries have been submitted to the auditors. They have asked a couple of questions that the finance department is looking into.

7. Controller's Report

The controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The status of the repapering of Met Life is there was a discussion with Met Life Representatives, the Town Attorney, Town Manager.

The current year revenues and expenditures were presented and reviewed. There is a concern in the Willimantic Service District overtime and there have been weekly discussions with the fire and police chiefs. The legal fees will be over budget but should be able to get funds from other lines or contingency.

The prior year budget will have a \$250,000 favorable variance in the Willimantic Service District. Board of Education has an \$80,000 surplus and the Town has a \$200,000 surplus.

Anita Sebestyen commented that the Hebron Fire Department is looking for Dispatch Services. Anita Sebestyen questioned the tax abatement through the first taxing district.

Charles Pennewill questioned the status of the sale of the Met Life Stock.

Tom Pesce replied that 1/3 of the stock has been sold and we have been talking with Met Life on submitting an order to sell another 1/3.

8. Discussion and possible action on health insurance

Lynne Ide commented on recommending two people to the Health Insurance Task Force.

Upon a motion by David Hemenway, seconded by Anna Crawford to recommend to the Mayor that Lynne Ide and Thomas White represent the Board of Finance on the health insurance task force.

Anita Sebestyen commented the board members need to keep in mind this is for the town employees. She was in favor of the state insurance plan but after hearing it a second time the self insurance might not be a bad idea. The self insurance has been working for dental.

Charles Pennewill commented we are in a win win situation and if there is not a decision by June 30th we will be ok.

The motion passed with 2 abstentions.

9. Discussion and possible action on the 2012-2013 Board of Education Budget

Upon a motion by Jeffrey Smith, seconded by Thomas White, moved to set the Board of Education budget at \$43,313,706.

Charles Pennewill commented there is a revenue for school transportation grant (public and non-public) that was listed in both the BOE budget and Town budget. How can both get the revenues.

Tom Pesce replied the revenues are on both sides. If the Board of Education receives \$337,000 directly the student based supplement will offset it by \$220,000. We may also get additional funds from the Board of Education tuition.

Jeff Smith commented the Town is the treasury side not the Board of Education and formula grants go to the Town not the Board of Education. It is not transparent this way.

Jeff Nelson commented he has received direction from Dr. Adamowski to make the change.

Charles Pennewill commented this is not right and we will be short \$100,000.

Thomas White commented the Town receives the funds and then gives the revenues to the Board of Education.

Jeffrey Nelson commented the budget reflects the \$313,000.

The state moved special funds out of the student based side to be used for transportation. The funds are supplemental and it is not included in the transportation revenue.

Jeffrey Smith commented it is not a good idea to start this now and it will raise questions. It is a formula grant. He would like the budget sent back to the Board of Education and have them come back with the real figures.

Jeffrey Smith and Thomas White withdrew there motion.

Neal Beets suggested increasing the Board of Education budget by \$337,000.

Upon a motion by Jeff Smith, seconded by Thomas White to increase the budget by 337,133 to 43,650,839.

Thomas White does not want the MBR to increase.

Anita Sebestyen agrees with Thomas White.

Dave Hemenway agrees with Thomas White.

Lynne Ide questioned what the suggested alternative.

Dave Hemenway suggested reducing the Board of Education budget.

Jeff Nelson commented there is a guarantee we will receive the funds of \$220,000.

The motion did not pass with two yes votes and 5 no votes.

Upon a motion by David Hemenway, seconded by Thomas White reduce the Board of Education by \$117,000 and to set the Board of Education budget at \$43,126,706.

The motion passed with one no vote and six yes votes.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebesteyen to clarify the Board of Education budget should be set at 43,196,706.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action on the 2012-2013 Willimantic Service District Budget

Upon a motion by Jeffrey Smith, seconded by David Hemenway moved to set the Willimantic Service District Budget at \$8,853,230.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action on the 2012-2013 General Government Budget

Thomas White commented he will support the budget with the idea that the Town Council will look into the ambulance.

Charles Pennewill commented he agrees with Thomas White.

Jeffrey Smith commented on the finance department needing a full time accounting position. The Town Council should have added a full time position.

Charles Pennewill commented on having two part-time positions.

Upon a motion by Anita Sebesteyen, seconded by Charles Pennewill moved to set the General Government budget at 14,339,390.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible action on the Capital Improvement Plan

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Jeffrey Smith to add \$25,000 to the Capital Improvement Plan for narrow banding. The one year Capital Improvement Plan total would be \$4,489,444.

The motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action on the time, date, place of the Annual Budget Meeting

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by David Hemenway, to set the Annual Budget meeting for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 1, 2012 at the Windham Town Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible action on the time, date, and place of the referendum vote

Upon a motion by David Hemenway, seconded by Anita Sebestyen, to set the referendum vote for Tuesday May 8, 2012 with time and two locations to be determined by the registrar.

The motion passed unanimously.

15. New Business

Upon a motion by Jeffrey Smith seconded by Dave Hemenway to discuss PILOT allocation

The motion passed with two no votes and five yes votes.

Jeffrey Smith commented that people living in Willimantic pay for fire and police services.

Jeffrey Smith asked for the allocation for the PILOT Funds. Neal Beets explained the PILOT allocation he put in his budget.

Jeffrey Smith would like this on a future agenda.

16. Future Agenda Items

PILOT Allocation
Ambulance

17. Public Comment

Joe Marsalisi commented Windham is not the only town that splits PILOT funds.

Lori Jeffers commented the Board of Education vote was for 43,126,706 and the vote should be rescinded. The PILOT allocation was because the state required us to do so. The library is closed on Saturdays. The sidewalks between Main Street and Valley Street on Mansfield Avenue need to be replaced. What is the projected cost of Magnet School?

Bernie Dauteuil commented on the \$750,000 the Board of Education is requesting for books. This will not raise their MBR.

Ernie Eldridge thanked the Board for their work on the budget. He will take the recommendation for the board members to the Ad Hoc committee. He also recommended the Board look for another firm to do the audit.

Upon a motion by David Hemenway, seconded by Thomas White to go back to agenda item number nine to clarify the last motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Charles Pennewill the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce