

The Board of Finance held a special teleconference meeting on **January 30, 2013 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, Charles Pennewill, Thomas White, Paula Haney, Nectalis Martinez.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Kevin Hoxie commented we can't afford it and hopes it goes to referendum.

Joe from the Hill section supports it going to a referendum

Cindy Lou Ellen has a grandson at the Natchaug School and wants the roof fixed. There is no exercise for him at the middle school

James Flores stated he is a renter, wants his money to go to education, and thanked Tom White for his efforts.

Jerry Phillips commented that the Board of Finance seems to be going into Town Council policy issues. Fixing the roof is not a money issue it is a priority issue.

Regina Hackett is a parent and asked the Board of Finance to approve this issue.

Mary Galuci stated that she thinks the Board of Finance has overstepped its bounds on this issue.

Harry Carboni commented the Board of Finance should vote this down because it is a useless expenditure of money.

Jennifer Schmitt asked the Board of Finance to support this issue she spoke as a parent, an employee and a taxpayer.

David Wallencevitz supports the project and the use of the State's 80% funding.

3. Presentations and Special Reports

Any Presentations or special reports related to the Natchaug Elementary School

None.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve an appropriation recommended by the Town Council, bonding, and a Town Meeting regarding the Natchaug Elementary School

Upon a motion by Paula Haney, seconded by, Thomas White

RE: Appropriation of \$1,361,802 to replace the roof at the Natchaug School, Bond Authorization of \$1,361,802 to fund the roof replacement and to meet the Town's Local Share of Such Appropriation.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Windham (the "Town"), on recommendation from the Town Council, recommends to the electors and all others entitled to vote at town meetings of the Town that the sum of \$1,361,802 be appropriated for the cost of the replacement of the roof at the Natchaug School, including but not limited to, all repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project"), and to meet the local share of such appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the amount of \$1,361,802 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor provided, however, that no money shall be spent or bonds issued pursuant to this resolution until after the State has approved a grant for the Project.

Paula Haney commented that the reason it was sent back to the council at a previous meeting was to change the dollar amount.

Tom White commented that he would vote in favor of this to bring it to the voters and he thanked the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

Charles Pennewill stated that he supports this going to a town referendum and feels the Town Council should have forced it to go to referendum at their meeting last night.

Anita Sebestyen also feels it should go to a town referendum.

Lynne Ide called the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Mary Gallucci stated that the Board of Finance should have tabled the motion, not voted on it, if they did not have enough information.

Tom DeVivo stated that a Town Meeting is the oldest form of democracy and is an appropriate method.

Cindy Lou Ellen said thank you.

Joel Myers commented this should be going out to a referendum vote.

James Flores commented you are the Board of Finance and you are my heroes. Even if I disagree with you, you take action.

Harry Carboni commented if you feel it should have gone to a referendum then you should have voted it down.

Elisa Descisco said the investment in the school is an investment in the future and in the community.

Kevin Hoxie commented we're doing the same thing now that we did before with the middle school.

Jerry Phillips said thank you; he said you've actually started the necessary conversations regarding education.

Mathew, a student, said thank you.

Nathan Espitia, a student commented repairs are 1 million dollars a new school is maybe 30 million, the decision should be easy.

Henry Krane said thank you for bringing it to a vote whether it goes to a town meeting or a referendum.

Murphy Sewell said thank you; and said we are not tearing the building down in 5 years.

Mark Doyle said we need to address the 10 year plan perhaps with a committee with representation from all 3 boards.

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Charles Pennewill the meeting was adjourned at 7:56p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce