

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **February 20, 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Board of Finance Comment

There was no Board of Finance comment

4. Approval of meeting minutes

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Charles Pennewill, to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2013.

The motion passed unanimously

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Charles Pennewill, to approve the meeting minutes from January 30, 2013.

Anita Sebestyen had a correction on page 2 to change vote to referendum.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair's Report

Update on audit for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Lynne Ide reported on the status of the audit. As of the last meeting, there is still one outstanding issue on reconciliation with the Town and BOE. The Town has provided a lot of information required. There would not be a one month extension and any extension would be on a weekly basis.

Update on purchase of elementary school reading program

A written report from the Board of Education was handed out to the board members. Issues brought up at the last meeting such as online password access have been resolved and the second purchase of the book has been done.

6. Presentations and Special Reports

Report on the status of the Town's revaluation

Joan Paskewich, Town Assessor, spoke on the status of the revaluation. A history of previous revaluations going back to 1993 was discussed. The Town has one of the lowest cost for a revaluation in the State. The 2005 revaluation was implemented a year earlier due to market conditions. The 2010 the revaluation was postponed. Legislation in 2010 allowed towns to defer revaluation for 1 year. Declining markets will only increase the mill rate which would increase taxes on business personal property and motor vehicles. In 2011 there was legislation again to defer revaluation. In 2012 there was legislation again to defer revaluation but Governor Maloy veto the bill. Susan Johnson helped to get a deferral with the Office of Policy and Management. The town has all the physical data and income information but have not set values on properties. The revaluation is currently scheduled for October 1, 2013 with notices going out in November or December of 2013. The grand list will be signed in February 2014 and the tax bill will be going out in July 2014.

Thomas White questioned how long do we defer a revaluation. The longer it is pushed off, it will hurt the homeowner more.

Charles Pennewill commented he agrees with Thomas White. Paying on an assessment from 2005 is not good.

Thomas White commented the assessor's office staff is very knowledgeable and good.

Thomas White questioned which board has the right to postpone a revaluation.

7. Controller's Report

The controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The Town Manager's 2013-2014 budget proposal was distributed along with the Governor's proposed revenue changes. The Governor's proposed revenue changes were also handed out. There are PILOT changes to state owned property and motor vehicle tax changes. Education cost sharing is increasing. Town Road aid has a significant increase and LoCIP also has an increase. The elimination to motor vehicle taxes will cost the Town approximately two million dollars.

The Town Manager will present the Capital budget at next weeks Town Council meeting.

Thomas White questioned if the Town could postpone the budget referendum until June.

Lynne will address the question with the Town Manager.

A notice will be going to the Town Council to give the Town Manager authorization to refinance existing debt. The plan is to do refinancing over the next few months and possibly combine with \$1,250,000 for the magnet school and \$750,000 for the existing road bonds.

8. Discussion and possible action on any General Government 2012-2013 budget transfer requests

There were no budget transfer requests.

9. Discussion and possible action on any Willimantic Service District 2012-2013 budget transfer requests

There were no budget transfer requests.

10. Discussion and possible action on the 2013-2014 budget meeting schedule

March 15th the budget is to be received from Town Council and Board of Education
May 7th is the Town meeting and the budget referendum will be May 14th.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to approve the following budget schedule:

March 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room

March 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. - location to be determined

April 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. – location to be determined

April 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – location to be determined

April 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room for a public hearing

April 17, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room

11. Old business

There was no new business.

12 New business

There was talk about putting together a committee to develop a 10 year capital improvement plan.

13. Future agenda items

Audit report

Town Manager to answer questions on reval

Board of Ed to answer additional questions raised

14. Public Comment

Bernie Dauteuil commented on people voting on a budget with \$1,000 property value. If the motor vehicle tax is eliminated will people that only own vehicles be able to vote on the budget.

15. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Charles Pennewill the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce