

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on **April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anita Sebestyen, Kenneth Folan, Tyler Griffin, Nectalis Martinez, Thomas White, and Paula Haney

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

Kevin Hoxie commented on the Board of Education and the student attendance rate in school. There are no text books in the middle school.

Bernie Dauteuil commented the Board of Education having a marketing person and the board should take a look at it. The education system needs to be looked at state wide and then nationwide.

Thomas DeVivo commented on the police administration budget and ipads that were added by the Town Council. He supports the economic development budget and all other budgets.

3. Board of Finance Comment

There was no comment

4. Discussion and possible action on the Board of Education Proposed 2014-2015 budget

Lynne Ide discussed the one time expenditures. John French commented on a handout for one-time expenditures. There are \$46,100 of purchases that can be removed from the budget and moved to the capital improvement plan. There are some items that are going to be a yearly request and are not one time purchases.

Tom Pesce commented on the change in revenues for Board of Education grants. There was an increase in the ECS and a decrease in the school transportation.

Thomas White commented the school transportation is based on last year's actual and should not be included as a Board of Education revenue.

Kenneth Folan questioned if the new administration positions are coming out of this budget. What is the fee paid for Kelly Services.

Anita Sebestyen questioned the field trips in fiscal year 2013-2014. There is \$1,083 in last year's budget and the previous years have zero dollars being spent. Now they are asking for \$10,000 in this line.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to calculate the School Transportation grant revenue as Town revenue instead of Board of Education revenue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$272,093 and move the projects to the Capital Improvement Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

Thomas White questioned what books are being purchased with this proposed budget.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan to send the Board of Education budget in the amount of \$44,005,007 to a public hearing on April 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on the Willimantic Service District proposed 2014-2015 budget

Tom Pesce commented on the handout and changes in revenues.

The collection rate has been changed to 97.5%.

Thomas White asked if there were any one time purchases in the budget that could be move to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Thomas White commented if fund balance is used this year, the grand list is not going to grow enough to make up the difference in use of fund balance so what will happen next year.

Anita Sebestyen questioned if the radio and alarm repairs could be reduced. The Police Chief commented that line has been over expended this year and some older equipment has broken down.

Thomas White questioned what is the percentage of fund balance to the budget.

Tom Pesce replied it is approximately 27%.

Lynne Ide asked if any other board members would like to use fund balance.

Tyler Griffin commented using \$500,000 is to high and suggested around \$250,000.

Nectalis Martinez commented the police and fire budgets are good but using \$500,000 of fund balance is to much and agrees with \$250,000.

Lynne Ide commented using \$300,000 of fund balance to keep the mill rate increase close to one. We can choose one of these numbers and see what happens in the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to use 200,000 of fund balance to help the impact on the mill rate.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion Tyler Griffin, seconded by Kenneth Folan to send the Willimantic Service District budget to public hearing in the amount of \$9,488,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action on the General Government Proposed 2014-2015 budget

Tom Pesce commented on a handout for the changes to the General Government budget. There is a reduction to the public works budget, an increase in probate, a reduction in debt service, and changes to economic development putting the salary and benefits back for an economic development director.

Thomas White questioned a new position in the senior center budget. If the new senior center is not opening then why do we need an additional person.

Mary Demarco commented the senior center is run by 2.5 people and the previous person that was the greeter when someone came into the building was employed through Easter Seals.

Paula Haney commented we are replacing someone who was previously there. We want to boost the use of the senior center. Considering the area of the senior center, the extra person might be a good thing.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan to accept the budget changes to expenditures in the amount of \$407,532.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to accept the budget changes to revenues in the amount of \$200,136.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to send the General Government budget to public hearing in the amount of \$15,467,945.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action on the Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2014-2015

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to add the projects from the Board of Education to the Capital Improvement Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tyler Griffin, seconded by Kenneth Folan to move the funding for the wells from bonding to RCIP.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan to approve Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Ken Folan to move all three budget to a public hearing to be held Tuesday April 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment

Kevin Hoxie commented the board did a good job on the budgets.

Bernie Dauteuil commented on the Board of Education budget and where were all the people from the Board of Education. Windham should have a senior center like all the other towns.

James Flores commented the only budget he is supporting is the Willimantic Service District. If he works for the school system he is paid \$75. If Kelly Services calls him to substitute teach, he is paid \$75 and Kelly Services gets \$25 for calling him.

7. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce