

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on **April 22, 2014 at 7:15 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.

Henry Crane commented on the Board of Education budget and the number of positions in the school system and the text books in the school system.

Ernie Eldridge thanked the board for the work they do on the budget. He is questioning the Willimantic Service District budget fund balance percentage. The Town Council was looking at off setting the mill rate by using fund balance and still keeping it within a good percentage.

James Flores asked the Board to speak in English so people will understand the mill rate change in taxes. The Board of Education funds don't go to the students. He supports the Willimantic Service District budget.

3. Board of Finance Comment

Lynne Ide commented on the handouts for the public. One has the total mill rate impact on the Willimantic Service District and the Town. Another handout that was prepared by the Assessor has a sample of real estate and motor vehicle tax amounts. The voters vote on separate budgets and want to see a clear picture on all the budgets.

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

Lynne Ide asked Christian Johnson to join the Board and comment on the Board of Education budget. He commented on the capital projects that are one time projects and moving them to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Thomas White commented on the mill rate increase of 1.06 mills for the Town and 3.33 mills for the Board of Education. The mill rate will increase 4.39 mills. The Willimantic Service District has a 1.17 mill increase.

Thomas White questioned using an outside contractor for substitute teachers. Tracy Lambert commented that Kelly Services is used with a 90% guarantee of a substitute teacher.

Ken Folan commented a cut should be made to the Board of Education budget. He is suggesting a \$250,000 reduction in administration.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$200,000 and would like to see cuts in administration.

Paula Haney suggested not making the reduction. The attendance is down and administrators are needed. Tracy Lambert commented they are not hiring a deputy superintendent. The Communications Officer has done good things and has been beneficial. Text book copies are made and electronic books are accessed online. We need to pay for the rights to access books electronically.

Thomas White commented some Board members are not happy about administrators. The Special Master got rid of the lower tier employees. Tracy commented the structure of the high school is being redone.

The motion did not pass.

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 Town Meeting .

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Christian Johnson recommends not using fund balance for the Willimantic Service District budget and the revenues can be increased. The fund balance could be used for capital purchases.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to reduce the use of fund balance by \$200,000 and increase revenues to offset this.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to send the Willimantic Service District budget in the amount of \$9,488,000 to Town Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Thomas White questioned why the parking officials are in the public works budget when the parking problem is in Willimantic.

Mayor Ernie Eldridge commented the intent is to help during snow storms when cars need to be removed from the streets. There are streets in Windham that need monitoring.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to remove \$38,000 from line 50307-101 and \$3,000 from 50307-114 and any corresponding revenues.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded Tyler Griffin to reduce line 41006-872 parking fines by 41,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to send the General Government budget in the amount of \$15,426,945 to Town Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon at motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to send all three budgets to a Town Meeting on May 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action on the proposed 1 year and 5 year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2014-2015

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Tyler Griffin to send the 1 and 5 year Capital Improvement Plan to town meeting

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

Joe Marsalisi commented on the parking attendants and it is a good thing to remove them.

Ernie Eldridge commented he wanted to see the parking attendants in the budget. There is a problem with parking in Willimantic and less of a problem in Windham. He is disappointed they did not stay in the budget.

Kevin Hoxie commented on the education budget and going digital with text books. Some kids in the school system don't have computers. A lot of copying of text books is being done. Get rid of the security guards and have a full time police officer there. Money does not teach a kid.

James Flores commented Tracy Lambert did not say the truth. He works as a substitute in the school system. There are 2 finance directors that were not discussed. He is only supporting the police budget.

Henry Crane thanked the Board for having a second public comment. The board of education budget should have been cut. He doesn't feel the budgets will pass.

7. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce